

SLINGSHOT

Winter 1998

Issue #63

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Issue #63

Winter, 1998

Berkeley, CA

Weeding out the underclass

The 'War on Crime' in Oakland

by N. Waters

In his campaign literature, Jerry Brown states that his "guiding principle" as mayor will be "zero tolerance for crime." Against a backdrop of ten years of state and federal anti-crime hysteria, and coupled with the Bay Area's ascendant housing and population crunch, Oakland's poor, working class, and non-white are about to be squeezed out of

existence.

It's already happening. People are moving to California and the Bay Area in record numbers. People with money, up and coming young professionals, etc. are arriving and immediately getting priority in a tight housing market. With Berkeley and especially San Francisco gentrifying at an alarming rate, Silicon Valley and the South Bay going manic with the computer explosion, one must ask what's next, or rather, what's left. The answer is Oakland.

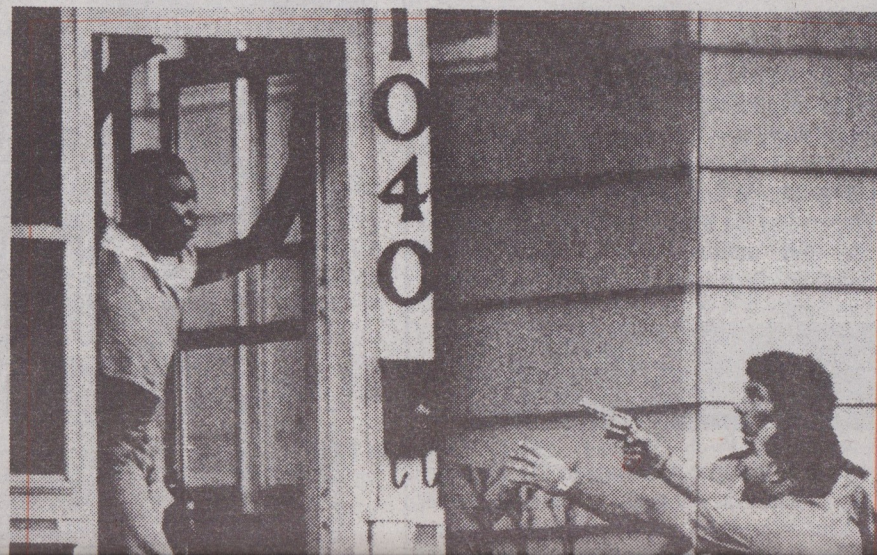
Westward Ho

Did California's coast just fall into the ocean? In terms of the housing crunch, property values, and migration westward and into the Bay Area, Oakland is being pushed from all sides. A major factor driving up housing costs is the booming economy in Silicon Valley which has created a sizable new class of people competing for housing who can afford to pay any large sum of money, and are willing to live as far away as--in fact may prefer to live--in San Francisco. Middle and upper-class yuppies are coming in and buying up the quaint and hip-er parts of The City and

except for the ones who can afford it--moving to Berkeley which, as Shirely Dean's recent handy victory at the polls demonstrates, is also quickly filling up with yuppies and other middle-class spillovers from elsewhere. So that leaves Oakland.

Lower-middle class white people with lesser jobs are being forced into the border areas of Oakland, where they are driving out poorer African-Americans with higher rents. And at the bottom end of the ladder,

Continued on page 12



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A survey of San Francisco Tenants Union cases shows that of tenants who changed their address in the past year, nearly half left San Francisco entirely. And where are those people going? For people who like living in the Bay Area, you can be sure they're heading to the East Bay. And they're probably not—

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Gates cause segregation by class

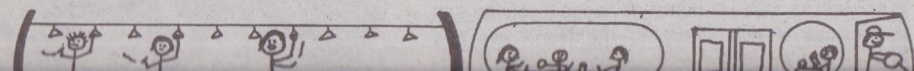
Communities of Fear

by S. Matzen

Our communities are in crisis, due to the burgeoning growth of gated communities and the security industry. Gated

communities are becoming the norm of development; security systems, including surveillance cameras and private guards, monitor an increasing portion of public life. There is no obvious need for this security frenzy: crime rates have fallen steadily throughout the 1990's. But however unnecessary the trend is, potentially

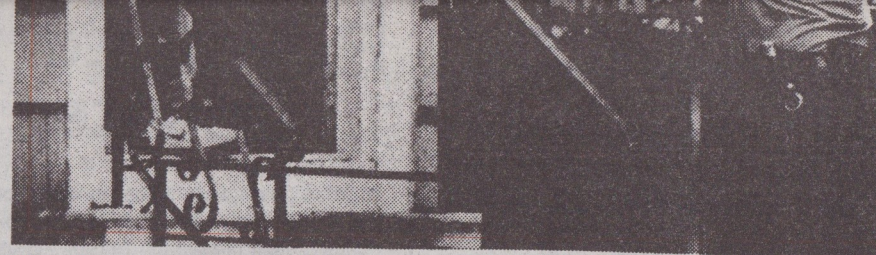
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communities are becoming the norm of development; security systems, including surveillance cameras and private guards, monitor an increasing portion of public life. There is no obvious need for this security frenzy: crime rates have fallen steadily throughout the 1990's. But however unnecessary, the trend is potentially devastating to communities. Communities cannot function when people live in gated enclaves, segregated by wealth and class. A social system based around fear and enforced isolation is asking for revolt by those outside the gates.

Gated communities are becoming the model for home development. Since 1970, gated communities have increased by a factor of ten, numbering 20,000 in 1997. Fifty-two percent of Dallas-area homebuyers feel gated communities are desirable or essential, according to a National Association of Home Builders 1996 survey. The demand for gated communities is spread across the homebuyer spectrum: mobile homes, as well as upscale houses, are being developed within walls and gates.

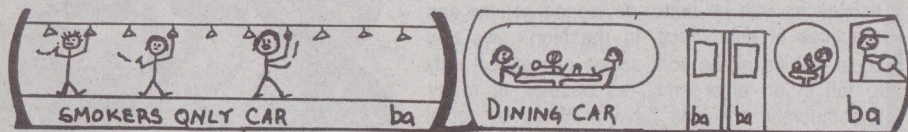
What do these people feel they will gain by the gates? Psychologically, gates and walls are linked to protection, but often the structures surrounding these communities can be easily scaled. And many advertisements and newspaper articles describing gated communities list them in relatively affluent surroundings. A gate does offer control of who enters the

neighborhood and who comes to the door. But with control comes predictability, and can quickly lead to a sense of isolation. Mental health practitioners are in fact seeing increased incidences of social isolation, which is strongly linked to higher rates of disease and premature death.

Perhaps most importantly, a community composed of walled and gated enclaves is not a community. The impulse towards safety is being manifested as a desire to surround yourself with your own social class, shutting others out. Children growing up in such non-diverse surroundings may have a grossly distorted worldview. The end effect is segregation by socioeconomic class. Gates send a strong message: when you are on the outside, you are not good enough. To those on the inside, people on the outside will begin to seem less trustworthy; the outsiders will be perceived as second class citizens. As Edward J. Blakely and Mary Gail Snyder point out in *Fortress America: Gated Communities in the United States*, "For those inside the gates, life may be a little more comfortable. For others, however, gated communities symbolize a larger social pattern of segmentation and separation, designed to disassociate and exclude."

What gated communities are really about is the abdication of responsibility. Instead of dealing with issues that make them uncomfortable, people who can afford gates

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Theme cars: A new vision for BART

by Donna McCabe

BART has stupid rules. \$200 fines for eating on a BART train? They should fucking have dining cars on BART, complete with singing waiters. Hell, they should have theme cars on BART. A three car singles train to Daly City will be approaching in 2 minutes. Now approaching, a seven car chakra train, enter the red one at your own risk.

The smoking car would simply be a flat-bed, open air car (no smoking in the transbay tube). There could be all sorts of different musical themes, folk music cars, rap cars, thrasher cars. Imagine slam dancing your way to and from work. Each car could be painted in its own unique way, so you could choose which marker to stand on in the station.

Maybe a car complete with gospel choir and preacher. It sure would make the idea of someone taking one of those "excursion fare" rides make more sense. How about a bunch of bike-only cars, where you are scoffed at if you don't have a bike, and where in place of seats they have bike stands where you can sit on your bike. Maybe even an exercise train, where people would be able to walk on treadmills and hike on stairmasters while commuting.

Just think, instead of taking BART to a social activity, it would be a social activity all on its own. But we have regular old sanitized BART cars. No cubicles, but there may as well be. BART should be spending money on theme cars, rather than planting ivy to beautify their parking lots.



SLINGSHOT



Hello all you Slingshot Readers. You are special. You have sought out a fresh voice of information and inspiration, a source uncorrupted by corporate money and control. In fact we are all volunteer and take no money for corporate advertising. We are not owned by a national chain as are our four local major newspapers (The Berkeley Voice, the most recent victim, has fallen into the jaws of Night Ridder Corp.). We are not concerned about how our presentation of a conflict may affect our arms sale department. As even KPFA now takes tainted money, we remain one of the increasingly few sources of media that is free to report from conscience. Send us articles, letters, photos and artwork. Send us Money. Help us pay the \$1,500 we spent on this issue! Buy our unique, freshly printed 1999 **Slingshot Organizer** now available for holiday dispersal.



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LETTERS

Inspiration for a drug war hostage

Dearest Beautiful People:

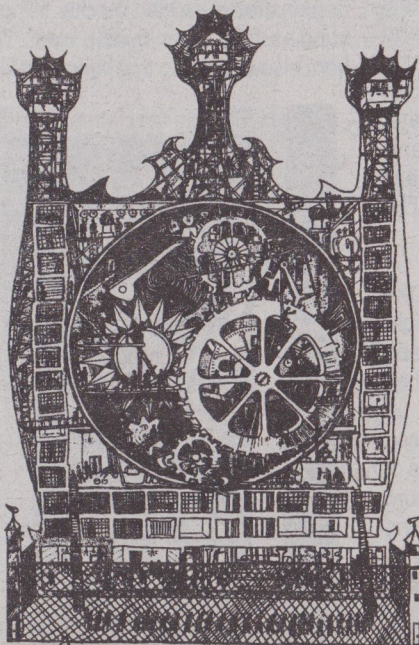
Personally I would like to thank everyone involved and contributing to Slingshot. Six weeks ago I was released from the New Hampshire State Prison after 40 months of being held hostage in support of the War on Drugs.

Although the facility I was held at was very skeptical of all incoming mail, somehow the Earth Mother let 4 of your issues cross into my hands. They have given some inspiration, gratitude and mucho positive energy flow.

Finally I can feel some true rebellion and strength to stand up for views and philosophies — it is magical.

Currently there is a strong need for a micropower independent radio station in the extremely cultured and progressive Portsmouth, NH (seacoast) — hippest town in NH. I want to be the supplier, I need info!

—Thanks Scott Byrnes



NOT READY FOR Y2K INSURRECTION

Dear Slingshot:

I was troubled by Daniel Dylan Young's short essay, "The Year 2000 Problem, the Social Revolution & You," Slingshot, Fall 1998. I felt it was dangerously simplistic and poorly thought through.

While I am not at all convinced the notorious "Y2K bug" will turn out to be anywhere near as devastating to the technology which virtually runs our society today as Daniel and others predict, I acknowledge with him the likelihood of significant political and economic disruption beginning around the end of 1999. And I also agree with the most basic tenet of his argument, that radical organizers should take advantage of the impending "crisis" and look upon it as an opportunity. But I do not share his utopian vision of the potential for the bug and its aftermath to spark "social revolution"; and by this Daniel actually seems to mean insurrection, the point at which the last vestiges of the state/capitalist system are torn down and replaced by liberatory alternatives.

My concern is that we have yet to develop those liberatory alternatives. Daniel asks "what better time for an anarchist revolution...?" and comments, "it's always a good day for a revolution." My response is that I can think of far

group or personality cult which requires of the people not skills but committed support. The vanguard seizes power when the opportunity arises and then takes up the task of managing the revolution and educating the masses from on high.

My point is that we had better hope, ironically enough, that some aspects of the Establishment stay in tact past Daniel's "numerologically significant" "Year 00." I for one am frightened of the potential for competition rather than mutual aid. Should welfare and social security and WIC checks stop arriving, even for a few months, it is obvious who will be at a dangerous disadvantage. The military and FEMA already maintain stockpiles of emergency supplies and food, which they will dole out as per their wishes. In the absence of a cooperative infrastructure to carry us through any hard(er) times which might be brought on by partial technological collapse, there is legitimate reason even for anarchists to fear. Just because we don't believe humans need hierarchical forms of government doesn't so much as imply that we are not largely dependent upon them, in the here and now, for protection from still nastier predators in the private, market-driven economy.

I remain optimistic. If the Y2K bug does lead to

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better historical periods, in the future, for insurrectionary change. Daniel has fallen into that classical anarchist pitfall that pins our hopes and visions on a disastrously inadequate notion of spontaneous revolt. If we have learned nothing else from revolutionary history, it should be that we are not prepared for revolutionary changes unless we have already established alternative forms of social institutions and infrastructure, and

wide scale catastrophe, radical organizers should definitely be prepared to get involved in mutual aid efforts in their communities. But to do what Daniel is suggesting, which amounts to a ridiculous and unethical attempt to pray on people's fears ("The emotions we can most readily capitalize on are the ambiguous anticipation lying in the back of the minds of the masses" [1]). Fear-mongering is never

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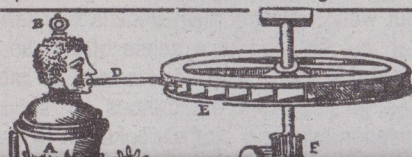
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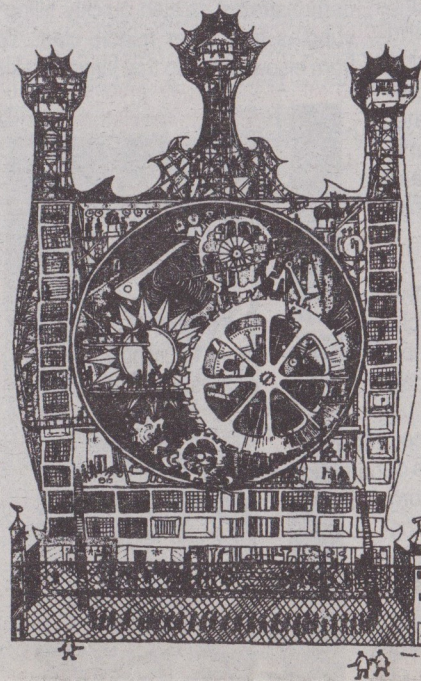
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Railroaded to disaster

Dear Slingshot:

I don't know when it happened but somewhere along the line American Society boarded a runaway train headed for disaster. In an attempt to "get tough on crime" the general public has been sold the myth that locking people up is the solution to the crime problem. In the short run it appears to have some impact. But over time the tracks will end, most certainly ending up in disaster.

Let's focus on the offender for a moment. As an inmate in the Arizona Department of Corrections, having been convicted of a non-violent, non-dangerous offense, I have had the opportunity to observe a penal system designed to encourage failure. Instead of providing an opportunity and an environment that encourages rehabilitation, we are essentially being warehoused until our release date comes around. There is essentially no "corrections" only

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There are two possible results of premature insurrection. The first is chaos. When old, oppressive social structures collapse "overnight," the tendency is not toward immediate reorganization of society along anarchist principles. Instead, power vacuums are typically filled with violence, with economic speculation, with starvation, and so forth. And whatever can be said of the so-called "anarchist movement," preparation to lead the reconstruction of society is not on our current list of attributes. The skills and institutions required to rebuild a new, non-authoritarian society amidst the rubble of the old take decades, perhaps generations to develop. Some cultures, such as the Maya Zapatistas in Southern Mexico, live simpler yet more severe existences with far better developed notions and practices of democracy. In the North, we can

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The main problem with Daniel's view of the Y2K moment is that it is every bit as apocalyptic as the perspective of those peddling survivalist dogma and tales of Armageddon. It still looks at a historical moment as the creator of history, instead of acknowledging our role in it as people who bring about change slowly, cautiously, patiently and completely.

Brian A. Dominick Syracuse, NY



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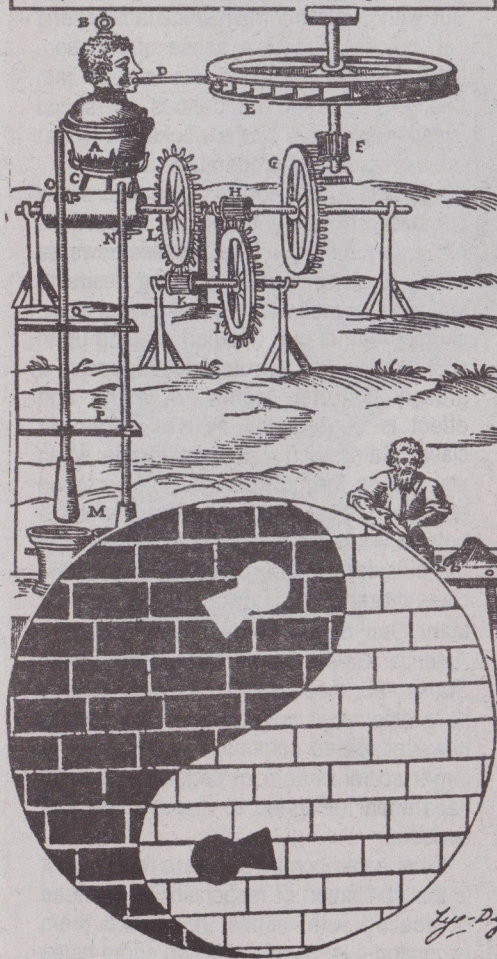
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Look at it like this. If you put an offender in prison, warehouse him for as long as you can, then release him back to the streets, what do you have? The same offender, who is a little older, a little wiser, and perhaps a little angrier at the system that failed him. Wouldn't it be wiser and safer for society if during his incarceration, this same offender was able to take advantage of real rehabilitation programs, maintain strong family ties and work on the issues that brought him to prison in the first place?

I hope one day we can begin true rehabilitation in our criminal justice system. As things exist today the system is destined for failure. I only hope that those on the outside will act with society's best interest in mind. Because if we continue on the track that we are on, there will most certainly be a crash. I'd hate to be around to view the wreckage because it will most certainly be a mess!

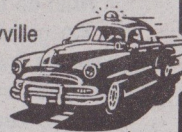
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Which brings us to the second possible consequence of revolting prematurely.

Unprepared "masses" of people (and I am not arrogant enough to exclude myself or anyone likely reading this from that group) tend to resort to dependence upon strong, charismatic leaders who present rhetorical plans for a new society and demonstrate a capability to implement such plans. This is the role of a vanguard, an elite

and strengthens. These tend to come out during times of calamity, and surprisingly enough it doesn't take any prodding from anarchist types to prompt one neighbor to help another. What we can offer, to the extent we have practiced it ourselves (and this is limited, let's agree!), is the development of collective structures and processes for bringing about mutual aid more equitably and efficiently.

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In Giuliani's NYC, "Quality of Life" = Police State

by Bill Weinberg

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's "quality of life" campaign means a police state for ordinary New Yorkers outside the new yuppie class. More and more constituencies in Gotham City are standing up and fighting back.

Giuliani, barred from seeking a third term by term limits, is using New York City as a showcase for his national ambitions. He is no longer playing to his own constituents, but to the white racist suburban voters across the country who he hopes will sweep him to national office on his record of getting a dangerous city full of whining minorities under control. He's trying to make New York like the rest of America—suburbanized, sterile and orderly. As Times Square and other tracts of primo real estate are sold off to Disney, Giuliani, who grew up in suburban Long Island, is squeezing out everything that makes New York unique. He is the suburbs' revenge on the urban center.

Giuliani ran on a symbolic platform of cracking down on the "squeegee men"—a policy which took a horrible turn this summer as a squeegee man was shot by an off-duty cop whose windshield he tried to clean, ending up critically injured.

Since being elected to a second term, he has selected targets a little higher up the social ladder, persecuting the city's mostly-immigrant working-class sectors—bicycle messengers, umbrella hawkers (mostly Senegalese), street peddlers and cabbies.

The taxi drivers were the first to fight back. After Giuliani pushed restrictive new regulations through the Taxi & Limousine Commission, making operating a cab prohibitively expensive, they organized a series of protests. The biggest, set for May 21, planned to block traffic in Manhattan. But

Giuliani placed police checkpoints on all the bridges to the island, turning back all cabs with no fare.

Rudy Giuliani boasted in the next day's papers: "They know that we broke their strike—destroyed it, really. Nobody showed up today. And that didn't happen just because we allowed business to go on as usual. That happened because we had a plan to stop them from doing it."

He then went on to quote from flyers calling for bringing Manhattan traffic to a standstill and says that if such a document had been

Giuliani erected pedestrian barricades at every intersection along 49th and 50th Streets between Fifth and Lexington Avenues, making peds walk out of their way to free the avenues for vehicle traffic. These were protested in December by Transportation Alternatives activists, who dressed up as cows to drive home the point that pedestrians were being treated like cattle.

The city's street food vendors also came under onerous regulations and are restricted from certain areas of the city, and held a half-day strike in protest in May. Curbside book

Transportation Alternatives activists dressed up as cows to drive home the point that pedestrians were being treated like cattle.

found in the hands of a "terrorist" group, "then everybody would understand that you cannot allow that to happen." This was a typical Giuliani racist allusion, a veiled reference to the fact that many cabbies are immigrants from the Middle East.

Bicyclists have also been the target of a new police crackdown, especially messengers and delivery workers, who are often recent immigrants, speak little English and function in a semi-legal "gray economy." In addition to supporting new legislation which would allow police to confiscate bicycles being ridden on the sidewalk, Giuliani has unleashed the police in a harassment campaign. A study in the New York Times noted that in the 19th precinct over a three week period, 1,168 summonses were issued to bicyclists but only 50 to motorists.

Pedestrians haven't been spared the assault. Shortly after his re-election last year,

and merchandise vendors are also being relegated to out-of-the-way blocks, forcing many out of business—despite the fact that courts have ruled that book vendors are protected by the First Amendment.

Street artists have also protested their arrest under the new regulations. On May 27,

Police brutality survivors (and next of kin) charge Giuliani with running a city where cops can maim and kill with impunity.

they protested in front of Cooper Union, where the Mayor was giving a speech about his support of the arts. In Giuliani's usual preemptive tactic against street protests, police had the place totally sealed off—the closest the protesters could get was the Cube, a small traffic island across a wide intersection from Cooper Union.

Street and subway musicians are suffering under the same wave of harassment. Subway musicians have even been harassed for playing in spots where they are legally allowed to with the Music Under New York (MUNY) program.

Curbside newsstand operators have protested Giuliani's plans to have all the old stands replaced with new mass-produced ones, to be covered with big-bucks advertising that the operators are responsible for any vandalism against but wouldn't get a cut of.

Community gardeners on the Lower East Side saw two gardens—one named for the slain Brazilian rainforest crusader Chico Mendez—bulldozed to make way for a yuppie condo development last Fall. Four more neighborhood gardens, mostly built and maintained by Puerto Rican and Dominican residents who reclaimed vacant and rubble-strewn lots, were sold off to developers in July. Also included in the auction was the Puerto Rican community center Charas, which reclaimed an abandoned school building 20 years ago, and was given a lease by the city. Charas is challenging the sale in court, on the grounds that the City illegally refused to consider the group's own bid for the property.

The City, meanwhile, refuses to even say who the new owner is. Charas leader Armando Perez vows to resist eviction to the end.

While harassment of the homeless has of course escalated, low-income tenants are also meeting with totalitarian tactics. In January, a tenement on the Lower East Side's Stanton

Continued on page 14

Attorney

ACTION ALERT!

last chance for

regulations through the Taxi & Limousine Commission, making operating a cab prohibitively expensive, they organized a series of protests. The biggest, set for May 21, planned to block traffic in Manhattan. But

over a three week period, 1,100 summonses were issued to bicyclists but only 50 to motorists.

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Continued on page 14

Attorney General violates law, refuses to revoke Unocal charter

by Guasapa

A coalition of more than 30 public interest organizations recently served California's Attorney General Dan Lungren with an unusual request: that he do his job. They asked that he use all the legal tools available to protect citizens from harm. Lungren enjoys using tools like 3-Strikes and the death penalty to punish individual criminal offenders, but what about those offenders that rampantly damage our health, safety, environment, and quality of life—the corporate offender?

More than twice as many people die each year in the US from preventable workplace diseases and injuries than from murder. Ten times greater property losses are inflicted by white-collar crime than by theft and robbery. We can't even measure the consequences to our health and environment of industrial pollution. Worst of all, the fact that corporations have bought our political processes means we no longer feel empowered to do anything about these problems.

All states have laws that grant corporate charters, essentially business licenses, and provisions to revoke them. The California Code of Civil Procedure, § 803 and 1801 authorize the Attorney General to take action to revoke the charter of "any domestic corporation... upon the Attorney General's own information or upon complaint of a private party, to procure a judgment dissolving the corporation and ... forfeiting its corporate existence upon any of the following grounds: (1) The corporation has seriously offended against any provision of the statutes regulating



Critical Resistance:

Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex

Art & Revolution and the Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC) co-sponsored a march to protest the expansion of the prison-industrial-complex into downtown Berkeley. One of two marches held during the Critical Resistance conference at UC Berkeley the weekend of September 25-27, a crowd of 300-500 gathered Sunday in Sproul Plaza with large puppets, such as this one of Mumia Abu Jamal. The march made its way through the streets of Berkeley to the site of the new jail/police station being built at

ACTION ALERT!

Last chance for Mumia Abu Jamal

by PB

In the wake of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's denial of Mumia Abu Jamal's last state appeal on October 26, the government is closer to executing a political prisoner than it has been since the Rosenbergs were electrocuted in the 1950s. Although attorneys have filed a petition for rehearing, Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge could sign a death warrant to kill the award-winning journalist, former Black Panther and radical at any time.

Mumia was wrongly convicted of killing a Philadelphia policeman in 1982 after a trial tainted by extensive governmental misconduct. Physical evidence and credible witnesses demonstrate that Mumia could not have killed the officer. Mumia has now been on death row for 17 years, during which time he has continued his work as a journalist despite the state's attempts to silence him.

It now appears that Mumia's last chance to survive is a final federal appeal, and more importantly, the Court of public opinion. Despite some publicity, including the film "Mumia Abu-Jamal: A Case for Reasonable Doubt?" which aired on national television, Mumia is hardly a household word and it is possible that an innocent radical will be executed without most Americans even knowing about it. Mumia's case has received much more attention outside the US than here at home, and worldwide Mumia's case is considered an example of America's racist injustice system running wild.

Protests are planned worldwide soon after governor Ridge signs Mumia's death warrant. In the Bay Area, meet the Tuesday after the death warrant is signed at 5:30 p.m., Montgomery and Market St., San Francisco (Montgomer BART.) To get involved in efforts to raise awareness of Mumia's case and save his life, call 415-431-3594. You can also call governor Ridge and demand that he order

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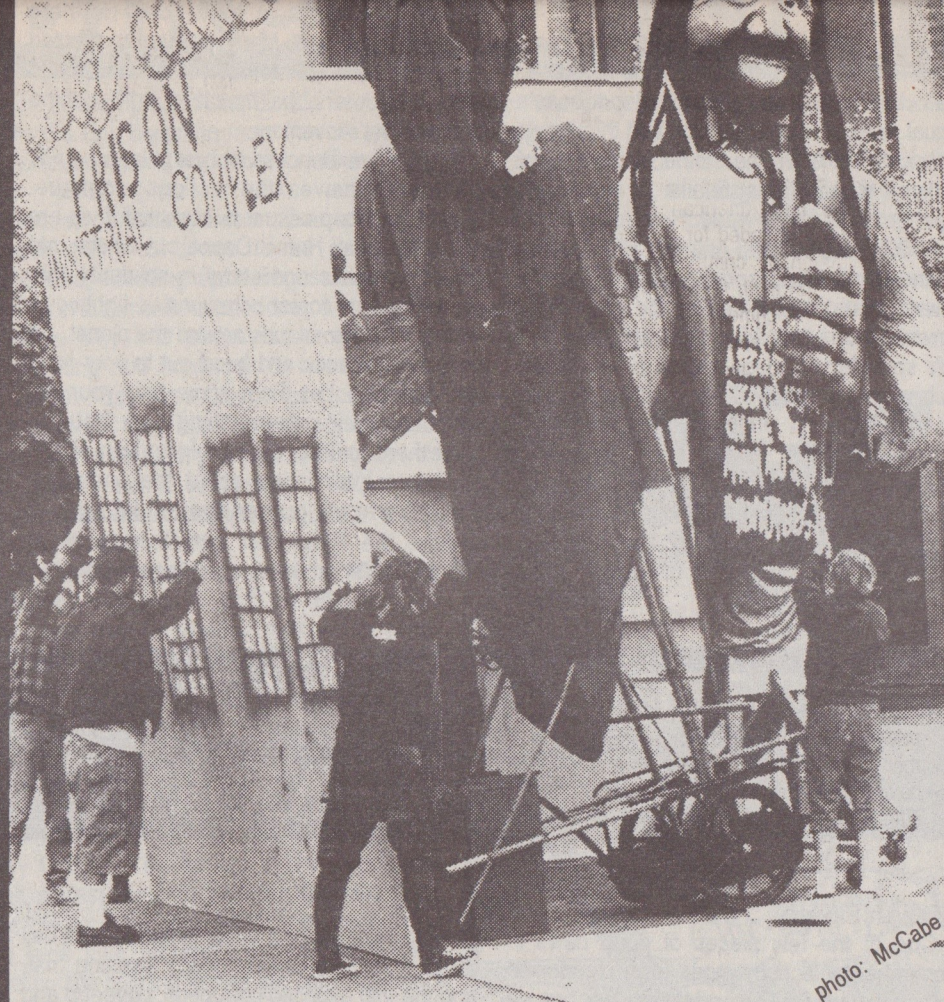
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Continued on page 15



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Saturday's *March to End the Drug War*, was kicked off with a speak-out. The crowd then marched with a giant banner from Telegraph and Haste up to the conference site.

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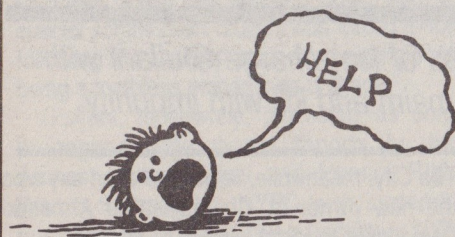
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Blurbs Of Revolt



Amnesty International Targets US Abuses

London - In October Amnesty International took the unprecedented yet entirely justified step of launching a year long campaign against the US for systematic and blatant human rights abuses. This is the first time in its 37-year history that AI has started a major campaign against a Western country. Some of charges against the US outlined in its 150-page report are "widespread and persistent" police brutality, "endemic" physical and sexual violence against prisoners, "racist" application of the death penalty, and the use of "high-tech repression tools" such as electroshock devices and incapacitating chemical sprays. In short, Amnesty International charges the US with a "double standard" of criticizing the rest of the world for abuse while not doing enough to stop the abuse it is overlooking, and causing, at home.



Off With Their Heads! Movement Against Monarchy March

London - In October over 700 protestors (including a hooded executioner complete with



Home Depot: Bringing Old Growth Forest Destruction to a SprawlMart Near You!

By pfunk

We all know that the world's forests are on the brink of ecological collapse. Only 22% of the planet's original primary forest cover remains ecological intact and even these areas are under relentless attack from transnational timber, mining and fossil fuel corporations.

For years forest defenders have been putting their bodies in the path of the destruction as well as targeting the big timber companies wherever they do business. This is important work and it needs to continue but if we are going to save the world's old growth forests we need to open up new fronts as well. Since excessive U.S. wood consumption is the engine driving global deforestation, the

exported was logged illegally); lauana and ramin from the rainforests of Southeast Asia.

Home Depot likes to promote itself as an environmentally conscious company and has been saying since 1992 that it wants to go old growth free. Finally, in 1997 due to pressure from Headwaters activists they committed to stop selling old growth redwood. However, not only are they continuing to sell ancient redwoods but in negotiations earlier this year they admitted that they had made these promises merely to stop environmental protest.

Activists across North America responded to Home Depot's role in liquidating the world's last old growth forests with a day of action on

Blurbs Of Revolt

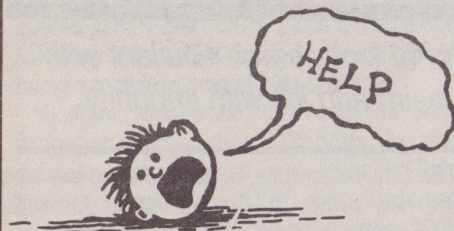
Fuck the Cars, Let's Play Volleyball! National French Car-Free Day

France - 35 cities banned cars from their central districts for one day in October, a move well appreciated by pedestrians. French Activists extended the official plan though a number of well-timed actions. In Paris the Champs Elysee was blocked by a tripod during the morning rush hour. Some in Lyon "borrowed" barricades and "street closed" signs from the city council, blocked off a street and covered it with sand for boules and volleyball. Everyone brought apple tarts and cakes to enjoy while the police slowly circled round the festivities in patrol cars. There also was a Critical Mass in Dijon and a "Lorry-Free Day" in Chambéry - the tunnel was blocked to trucks.

Eugene to NIKE - "Just Don't Do It!" Impending NIKETown Sparks Protest

Eugene, Oregon - On October 17 scores of anti-corporate activists and black-clad young anarchists took to the streets of the birthplace of NIKE to protest its highly problematic business practices. After speeches, leafleting and the destruction of a 12 foot long "Swoosh" symbol carried in by children (symbolizing NIKE's child labor practices), the protesters became more demonstrative by tearing down a fence surrounding the yet-to-be-opened store. The police countered with riot-gear, pepper-spray, and tear gas, yet several people

and incapacitating chemical sprays. In short, Amnesty International charges the US with a "double standard" of criticizing the rest of the world for abuse while not doing enough to stop the abuse it is overlooking, and causing, at home.



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Giuliani Must Really Hate Jaywalkers New York's Finest Trample Memorial March

New York City - Over 4000 people marched down Fifth Avenue of October 19th to protest and mourn the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student brutally murdered in Wyoming. As usual, the Major Giuliani police state quickly poured into action, harassing

Bringing Old Growth Forest Destruction to a SprawlMart Near You!

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For years forest defenders have been putting their bodies in the path of the destruction as well as targeting the big timber companies wherever they do business. This is important work and it needs to continue but if we are going to save the world's old growth forests we need to open up new fronts as well. Since excessive U.S. wood consumption is the engine driving global deforestation, the time has come to target the companies who make millions retailing old growth forest products.

Top of the list of forest looting profiteers is The Home Depot, the largest do-it-yourself retail chain in the world. Home Depot boasts annual sales of over \$24 billion and through its control of 20% of the home improvement market it is the largest retailer of old growth forest products in the world. Home Depot has over 700 stores in North America, has recently expanded into Chile and Brazil and plans to grow to over 1,300 stores by the year 2001. Currently they are building between 3 and 8 of their sprawl-mart mega stores every week! Each of these stores is filled with plundered old growth forest products. These include cedar, douglas fir and redwood from the temperate rainforests of North America; mahogany stolen from indigenous lands in the Amazon (a recent study by the Brazilian government found that 85% of all mahogany

exported was logged illegally); lauana and ramin from the rainforests of Southeast Asia.

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Activists across North America responded to Home Depot's role in liquidating the world's last old growth forests with a day of action on October 14, 1998. Demonstrations were held at over 85 stores through out the U.S. and Canada including lockdowns to reclaim stolen rainforest products in New York, Northern California and Iowa. Many activists conducted guerrilla "Dead Rainforest Tours" in order to show customers the macabre truth behind Home Depot's inventory.

While Home Depot scrambles to launch a PR counter-offensive, the actions continue. Escalating this pressure is essential if we are going to drive Home Depot out of the old growth business and stand in solidarity with the indigenous forest communities fighting to protect their homelands around the planet. So grab some friends and head out to your local Home Depot! Let them know that your not fooled by their greenwashing and that you want them to stop selling old growth NOW! For more information about the campaign check out www.homedepotsucks.com or contact the Rainforest Action Network at 415-398-4404 or via email at rags@ran.org.

Freedom in Sight for Bear Lincoln

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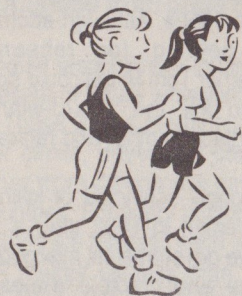
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No Justice, No Oil Nigerians Take Arms Against Shell

Nigeria - Nigerians repeatedly attacked Shell Oil in October, seizing at gunpoint more than 10 stations, two helicopters and a drilling rig. Youth groups, fed up with their exclusion from the Nigerian political process and the general economic inequality of their nation, have recently taken matters in their own hands by hitting where it hurts - oil, the lifeblood of the region. Nigeria is one of the world's

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Blurbs Of Revolt

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Freedom in Sight for Bear Lincoln

by Karen Pickett

One of the few pieces of good news in November's elections came from Mendocino county, where DA Susan Massini lost her bid for re-election and Norm Vroman was voted in. Massini, besides having prosecuted many EFlers and definitely not being a friend of progressives (much less radicals), had been rabid about prosecuting Bear Lincoln, the Indian man accused of fatally shooting a Mendocino county sheriff's deputy in 1995. In fact, Bear's friend Leonard Acorn Peters, another resident of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, was killed the night in April, 1995 by the cops in a case of mistaken identity. Most people close to the situation felt the partner of the deputy who killed Acorn did the shooting Bear was accused of.

Bear was acquitted by an all-white jury in a highly publicized murder trial in August 1997.

He had spent over 2 years in jail without bail (after 4 months underground) awaiting trial, and the trial exposed corruption, cover-up and racism in the Mendocino county sheriff's dept. Massini announced after the acquittal that she would pursue a second trial, and filed manslaughter charges. DA candidate Norm Vroman had said strongly and clearly early in his campaign that he would not pursue another trial for Bear Lincoln. So provided he sticks to his campaign promises, Bear Lincoln will finally be a free man, three and a half years after he watched his lifelong friend gunned down on a dirt road on the edge of the reservation in northeast Mendocino county.

Contact the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) Ecology Center 2530 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, CA 94702 phone: 510 548 3113 email: bach@igc.org

over-priced clothes off a balcony. A few days later, police raided the home of a teenage male that left fingerprints on a protest sign near the scene, holding his family at gunpoint on the floor in handcuffs, seizing computers and documents and searching the place for 7 hours. He wasn't home at the time, and no arrests have been made yet, although ample police video tape exists of the protest.



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Summaries by Nicholas Freeman
All Stories from: <http://www.ainfos.ca/>

Blurbs Of Revolt

Strawberry Pie

Preparation time: 35 minutes
Chilling time: 1 hour
Throw at your convenience

To make crust see Pie Crust Recipe.
To make filling, arrange points up on bottom of cooled pastry crust:

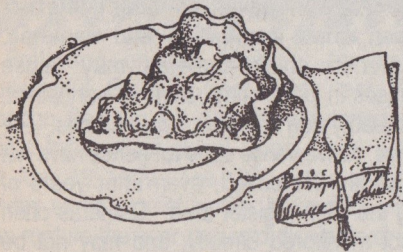
1 large basket of strawberries

Blend in blender:

2 small baskets strawberries
1/3 cup honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch



Cook strawberry mixture in medium saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly for 15 minutes or until mixture turns dark red. Place pan with strawberry mixture in cold running water, stirring until cool. Pour mixture over strawberries in pie pan. Refrigerate. Decorate pie with sweetened whipped cream. Decorate politician with pie.



Pie Crust

1 cup barley flour
1/2 cup oat flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup oil
4 tablespoons ice water

Prepare one 9-inch pie pan by brushing bottom and sides lightly with oil. Sift dry ingredients into bowl. Mix oil and ice water. Add liquid to dry ingredients using fork. Stir until a ball is formed. Press into prepared pie pan, or roll out between wax paper and place in pie pan, making a high edge around the outside. Prick with fork, and bake in 400 degree oven for 10-12 minutes. Plan ahead to have crust prepared before any pie-throwing event.



Communiqué

General Command/Biotic Baking Brigade

To the governments, corporations, armies, chefs, bakers, and civil societies of the earth:

In response to the heroic actions of our colleagues in London, the General Command of the BBB--Ecotopia Cell met in emergency session, and decided to announce two new global campaigns in opposition to neoliberalism, corporate crime, and industrial technocracy.

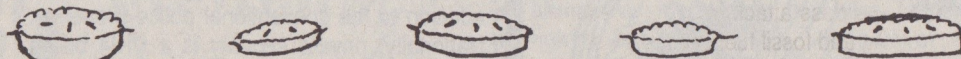
The first offensive is called the "Pie Snowball," which is a call to arms for revolutionary bakers and pie-slingers across the Western World. Modeled after anti-nuke and anti-genetics campaigns in Europe, the plan calls for an autonomous, diffuse, and widespread pastry uprising (so to speak). As the Zapatistas have made clear, in a global economy, we all live in Chiapas. The BBB would like to make the analogy that under neoliberalism, we all can throw a pie in the face of fascism. No bosses, offices, foundation grants, never-ending consensus meetings, or CFLA's (Confusing Four Letter Acronyms) are needed: Just Do It! We are, after all, pie-throwing anarchists. There's an oven on every street, and cooking materials in every watershed. The idea is for at least one flan-er (or "l'entarteur," as Belgian pieman Noel Godin of the Patisserie Brigade Internationale is known) in a bioregion to make that first fateful throw, and then inspire others to do the same. May the proverbial snowball roll

down the hill of struggle until an avalanche of 'cream psychosis' (Godin, op. cit.) buries the global corporate elite.

The second offensive, developed by a joint task force of disaffected computer geeks and GC/BBB--EC military advisors, has been code-named "Pie2K." Operations will target computer industry executive and consultants, who are responsible for the Year 2000 computer bug (Y2K) mess. The people have judged them guilty of gross (disgusting, really) negligence over the course of several decades. In perhaps one of the most striking examples of the inherent flaws in capitalism, the industry has known about the problem since day one, but it has never behooved workers to fix it because it would be unprofitable for their bosses to spend the extra time and labor needed to put the problem right. In addition, Y2K reveals the inherent vulnerability of technology itself, as well as the hubris and short-sightedness of the technocrats who have computerized everything they possibly could in the short time computers have been in existence. The proper response, truly, is a shower of pies across the nighttime sky upon Silicon Valley. Let's kick it off mates, freaky-style!

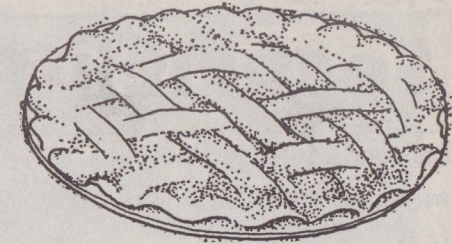
There's a pie in the sky when you die--that's a lie!

—Decoded and Relayed by Agent Apple



Recent BBB Pie Actions

Recent pie actions have been carried out against: Renato Ruggiero, Director General of the World Trade Organization ("This is a present from the dispossessed!"); Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft, Robert Shapiro, CEO of agricultural chemical giant Monsanto, neoliberal economist Milton Friedman, Charles Hurwitz, CEO of MAXXAM (which is wiping out the last privately held ancient redwoods in the world), San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom, pro-reckless development San Francisco Supervisor. Mayor Brown was pied with three pies (tossed tofu cream, mixed berry and pumpkin) simultaneously for his crimes against working people in San



Cherry Tart Pie

1 9-inch baked pie shell
3 cups pitted sour cherries, drained
1/3 cup cherry juice
3/4 honey
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 teaspoons tapioca granules

Combine cherries, cherry juice, honey, cornstarch, cinnamon and tapioca in heavy-bottom saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Simmer slowly for about 5 minutes until tapioca is clear and mixture has thickened.

Cool and spoon into baked pie shell. Throw chilled or at room temperature.



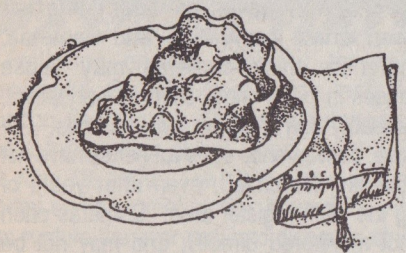
Vegan Pumpkin Pie

2 heaping cups of cooked pumpkin
2 10.5-ounce (300 g) packages of silken tofu, drained
2 pie crusts
1 1/4 cups brown sugar, not packed tight
dash salt
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground dry ginger
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon allspice
2 teaspoons nutmeg



Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Blend the tofu in a food processor or with a blender until smooth and cream-like. Add two heaping cups of cooked pumpkin and blend some more. The result should be a light orange-colored paste with no

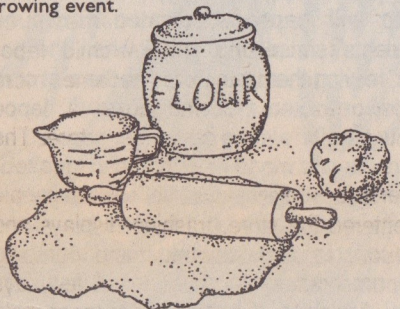
or until mixture turns dark red. Place pan with strawberry mixture in cold running water, stirring until cool. Pour mixture over strawberries in pie pan. Refrigerate. Decorate pie with sweetened whipped cream. Decorate politician with pie.



Pie Crust

1 cup barley flour
1/2 cup oat flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup oil
4 tablespoons ice water

Prepare one 9-inch pie pan by brushing bottom and sides lightly with oil. Sift dry ingredients into bowl. Mix oil and ice water. Add liquid to dry ingredients using fork. Stir until a ball is formed. Press into prepared pie pan, or roll out between wax paper and place in pie pan, making a high edge around the outside. Prick with fork, and bake in 400 degree oven for 10-12 minutes. Plan ahead to have crust prepared before any pie-throwing event.

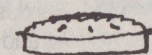
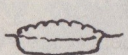


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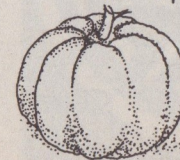
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Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Blend the tofu in a food processor or with a blender until smooth and cream-like. Add two heaping cups of cooked pumpkin and blend some more. The result should be a light orange-colored paste with no lumps of tofu. Put the paste into a large mixing bowl and add the sugar, salt, and spices. Mix well and spoon it into two pie crusts. Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until the crusts are dark brown (but not burned). Cool before throwing.

Vegan Pumpkin Pie

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Revenge of the nerds

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by S. Matzen

The Pentagon, China's human right's agency, India's major nuclear weapons manufacturers, and Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo have all been attacked recently, not physically, but by computer hackers. "Hacktivists" around the world are launching a series of electronic attacks on web sites of oppressive institutions. Tactics range from electronic graffiti to bombarding servers and

other technology used in hacktivism originated within the US Dept. of Defense. There is a certain enjoyable irony using these tools to wound their parents. But activists must make sure the social institutions maintained by the military-industrial complex do not taint internet-based actions.

One danger is that the movement is potentially non-diverse -- in two major survey articles focusing on hacktivism, no women were

There is also discussion within the hacker community questioning whether hacktivism violates the community's ethical standards. Hackers traditionally have engaged in electronic exploration for its own sake--hacking has been driven by curiosity, not by malicious intentions. "The bottom line to me is that hackers have no moral right to break into someone else's system. India and Pakistan have no inherent moral right to put humanity at risk

potential, energy devoted to it is less energy going towards organizing in the streets, where the effects are more promising and lasting.

Hacktivist Actions

- On Oct., 27, a day after China's human rights agency announced its new Web site, the official view of that nation's human rights record was replaced with an electronic trespasser's manifesto:

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Hactivists co-opt web sites

Revenge of the nerds

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The Pentagon, China's human right's agency, India's major nuclear weapons manufacturers, and Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo have all been attacked recently, not physically, but by computer hackers. "Hactivists" around the world are launching a series of electronic attacks on web sites of oppressive institutions. Tactics range from electronic graffiti to bombarding servers and effectively halting all traffic to a site.

Recent actions include an attack by the Mexican group X-Ploit on the country's finance ministry website, replacing it with the face of revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata in sympathy with the Chiapas rebellion. On Nov 22, the Electronic Disturbance Theater in NY attacked the site of the U.S. Dept. of Defense's "School of the Americas," which trains representatives from repressive Latin America military and intelligence forces. Electronic Disturbance Theater attacks flood the server with requests for the site, severely limiting "legitimate" access and potentially crashing the server.

Potential of Hactivism

Hactivism has a lot of immediate potential. A lot of visibility for revolutionary movements can be generated by changing websites to reflect our political views, both through the sites themselves, and through the significant mainstream media coverage the actions receive. More importantly, the internet is an increasingly serious business tool. Since it is so easily open to attack, revolutionary groups should take this opportunity to wreak havoc and Run!

Hactivism's Flaws

But hactivism has definite flaws. We should be wary of depending too heavily on technology as a vehicle for activism, what with the coming Y2K crisis. And the internet and much of the

other technology used in hactivism originated within the US Dept. of Defense. There is a certain enjoyable irony using these tools to wound their parents. But activists must make sure the social institutions maintained by the military-industrial complex do not taint internet-based actions.

One danger is that the movement is potentially non-diverse -- in two major survey articles focusing on hactivism, no women were mentioned, and no groups operating out of Africa were described. Although some groups are putting up sites with directions making hactivist actions accessible to novice hackers, and although the activists are generally of a younger generation of hackers, the fact remains that the actions are primarily accessible to people with an extensive computer background, which is a generally male and middle class group of people.

There is also discussion within the hacker community questioning whether hactivism violates the community's ethical standards. Hackers traditionally have engaged in electronic exploration for its own sake--hacking has been driven by curiosity, not by malicious intentions. "The bottom line to me is that hackers have no moral right to break into someone else's system. India and Pakistan have no inherent moral right to put humanity at risk and to further damn our environment. Conflicting moralities do not justify vigilante action" pointed out a letter-writer to the folks who hacked the Indian nuclear bomb makers' sites.

In many ways it is a guerrilla war-- groups changing websites and institutions retaliating. Hackers may have the advantage now, but institutions are devoting more energy to deflecting the attacks. While hactivism has

potential, energy devoted to it is less energy going towards organizing in the streets, where the effects are more promising and lasting.

Hactivist Actions

- On Oct., 27, a day after China's human rights agency announced its new Web site, the official view of that nation's human rights record was replaced with an electronic trespasser's manifesto: "China's people have no rights at all, never mind human rights. How can the United States trade millions and millions of dollars with them and give them most-favored trade status when they know what is happening?"
- Groups MilWorm and Ashtray Lumberjacks, acting together, orchestrated a unprecedented mass hack directed towards all of the nuclear powers, replacing pages on more than 300 sites with an anti-nuclear statement, complete with angry red mushroom cloud
- On Aug. 1st, the Portuguese group Kaotik Team hacked 45 Indonesian government Websites, altering web pages to include messages calling for full autonomy for East Timor.
- Mailbombs were delivered and several other Indonesian government sites were hacked on Aug. 12th by hackers from China and Taiwan, to protest the fact that Chinese-Indonesians were targeted for torture, rape and looting during the anti-Suharto riots in May.
- On Oct. 13th, political activists took over an Indian government web site and posted messages and photos calling attention to alleged government-sponsored repression and human rights violations in the contested northern Indian state of Kashmir.

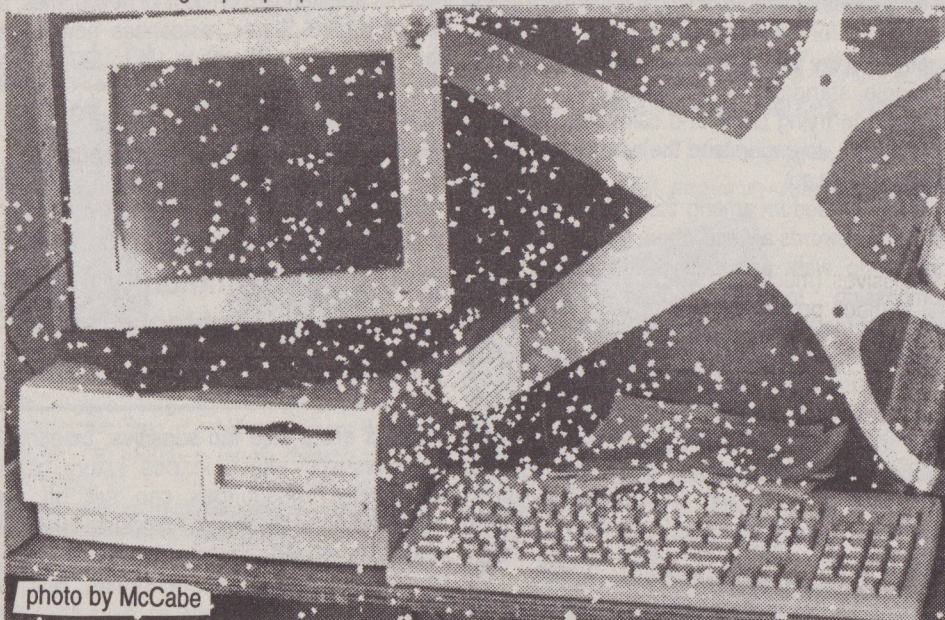


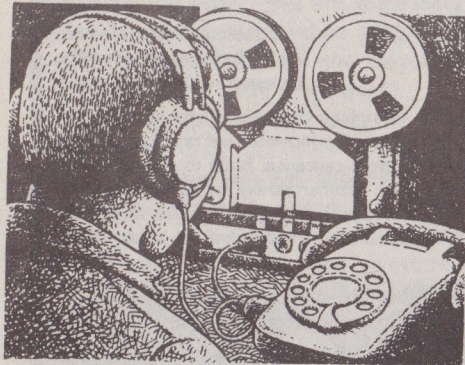
photo by McCabe

Security Freaks Cause Community Crisis

Continued from Page One

and walls secret themselves away from things scary – or maybe even just different.

Communities are about sharing resources and responsibilities. Since most gated communities privatize everything within the gates, including streets, parks, and other



municipal services, people living within the gates risk becoming anesthetized to issues

outside the gates. They will likely no longer feel the need to share their resources. If the rich keep all their resources to themselves, the rest of the larger community will have work harder to maintain institutions outside the gate. The end result is the exacerbation of the “problems” the gated folks tried to escape by living within the gates.

And what are these “problems”? The main “difficulty” is that the people not living in gated communities will either be too poor to afford that level of security, or uninterested in living a segregated life—neither of which is cause for fanatical security and isolation. The fear and superiority the gated folks feel is clearly a consequence of a society that emphasizes wealth, class, and profit over community and humanity.

The concentration of wealth encouraged by gated communities almost guarantees a revolt by the people outside the walls. Against

masses of angry, frustrated people, walls and gates will offer laughably little protection. One private guard working at a gated community acknowledged that he could easily scale the gate. “It may be nice for a couple of decades,” write Carolyn Shaffer and Kristen Anundsen in *Creating Community Anywhere*, “But if there is too much disparity between the private enclaves of wealth and homogeneous groups of people, the rest of the



community is going to be poor, frustrated and angry. And the walls are not going to be high enough to keep out the problems.”

Electronic Security Systems

Additional protection measures are being taken, both in conjunction with and apart from gated communities. Elaborate security packages, including private guards, alarms, and surveillance cameras, are standard on 30% of new homes. Private security guards are being hired to patrol neighborhoods, in addition to the conventional police presence. Nationally, private security is a \$104 billion industry, while public security (such as local police forces) is a \$44 billion industry.

Private security guards offer somewhat illusory protection. Often, guards are hired

most thieves can escape with their cargo in minutes.

Surveillance cameras are proliferating even faster than alarms systems. For several years, surveillance cameras have been staples of convenience stores and ATM's, but spy cameras can increasingly be found monitoring all aspects of public life. In one eight block area of New York, NY Civil Liberties Union volunteers found 300 cameras in plain sight; many more could have been hidden.

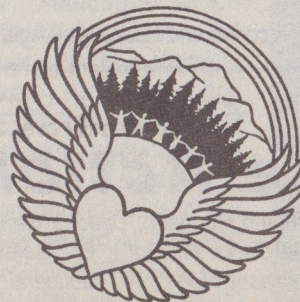
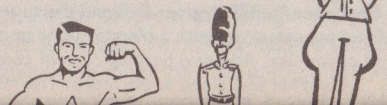
The presence of cameras often suggests an atmosphere of safety. According to the *Village Voice*, however, no clear link exists between crime prevention and cameras. Researchers think cameras may cause decreases in petty crime such as vandalism, but probably don't prevent larger crimes. For instance, convenience store robberies have not significantly decreased, even after years of taping the cash register area. Cameras often are not monitored directly, and may not be monitored at all unless a crime occurs in the area. The tapes are only viewed afterwards with hopes of catching the perpetrators.

Security Through Community

The security frenzy points to a crisis within our communities. For security's sake, mainstream America accepts daily monitoring, and then returns home to sealed homes inside sealed gates. But technology cannot provide the best security. The most reliable safety comes through a strong community, where people know and watch out for each other. The coming Y2K situation emphasizes the dangers of depending on technology over community. What will happen to gated community residents' sense of security when the gate fails, leaving them vulnerable to the rest of the world, or locked inside? What will happen when burglar alarms fail, after people have left doors and windows unlocked in their false,

This is the “Correctional Officer's Creed,” published in the correctional officers' journal, *The Keepers Voice*, which I recently ran across on the Internet. I submit the following “Citizen's Creed” as an alternative.

Correctional Officers' Creed



Citizens' Creed

True security comes through being willing to connect openly



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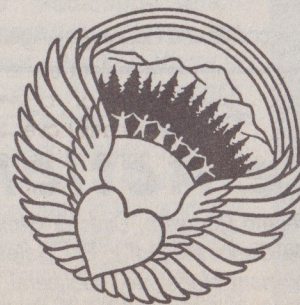
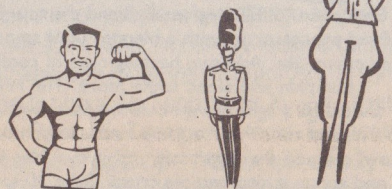
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"Those who care for their less fortunate or less capable neighbors are targeted less often than those known for their selfishness," says Tom Atlee, a Berkeley Y2K community organizer. "Extreme efforts to secure individual household security can result in houses becoming voluntary armed prisons, producing a community much like a fearful, righteous, angry garrison. After reasonable

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Citizens' Creed

To speak sparingly ... to act, not argue ... to be in authority through personal presence ... to correct without nagging ... to speak with the calm voice of certainty ... to see everything, and to know what is significant and what not to notice ... to be neither insensitive to distress nor so distracted by pity as to miss what must elsewhere be seen ...

To do neither that which is unkind nor self-indulgent in its misplaced charity ... never to obey the impulse to tongue slash that silent insolence which in time past could receive the lash ... to be both firm and fair ... to know I cannot be fair simply by being firm, nor firm simply by being fair ...

To support the reputations of associates and confront them without anger should they stand short of professional conduct ... to reach for knowledge of the continuing mysteries of human motivation ... to think; always to think ... to be dependable ... to be dependable first to my charges and associates, and thereafter to my duty as employee and citizen ... to keep fit ... to keep forever alert ... to listen to what is

To voice opinions ... to argue until you act ... to have your personal presence be an inspiration ... to challenge without coercing ... to speak without assuming you are right ... to question everything, and to know what to focus your energy on ... to be sensitive to distress and aware of people's needs to understand better what must be done ...

To be kind and generous when possible, to accept help when needed ... never to blindly obey authority, but continually challenge yourself to change the status quo ... to be both strong and sensitive ... to learn to be fair though listening to others, not following society's standards of fairness ...

To support your community and fellow citizens and challenge them without anger toward building a better society ... to reach for knowledge along with the joys of strength of courage ... to act; always to think ... to be dependable ... to be responsible first for my own actions, and thereafter to my responsibilities as friend and citizen ... to be ready ... to keep forever alert ... to listen, to

True security comes through being willing to connect openly with one another, honestly and respectfully.

specifically to observe crimes and report them to the police force, instead of to intervene. Even in uniform, private guards are still only private citizens; anybody on the street has the power to detain a suspect for a 'reasonable length of time'.

"Most criminals know exactly what those services do and what they can't do, and they're not afraid of them like they are the police," says Terry Schauer, senior lead officer at LAPD's West Los Angeles station. Nonetheless, the security guard industry continues to expand. Some neighborhoods, both with and without gates, are hiring private security guards to patrol their streets. Several neighborhoods in the Baton Rouge, LA area have established mandatory taxes to fund the guards. Ironically, some conservatives join civil libertarians in speaking against these residential tax districts. "It is going to Balkanize the cities even further," argues Walter Abbott of the politically conservative Americans for Tax Reform. "It's pitting neighborhood against neighborhood. It's a



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To expect respect from my charges and my superiors yet never to abuse the one for abuses from the other ... for eight hours each working day to be an example of the person I could be at all times ... to acquiesce in no dishonest act ... to cultivate patience under boredom and calm during confusion ... to understand the why of every order I take or give ...

To hold freedom among the highest values though I deny it to those I guard ... to deny it with dignity that in my example they find no reason to lose their dignity ... to be prompt ... to be honest with all who practice deceit that they not find in me excuse for themselves ... to privately face down my fear that I not signal it ... to privately cool my anger that I not displace it on others ... to hold in confidence what I see and hear, which by telling could harm or humiliate to no good purpose ... to keep my outside problems outside ... to leave inside that which should stay inside ... to do my duty.

—Bob Barrington

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To expect respect from fellow humans and to do unto others and you would have them do unto you ... for every hour of each day to be an example of the joys that living can be ... to have a single standard of truth ... to cultivate patience in trying times and calmness during confusion ... to understand the why as well as how, and then act ...

To hold freedom among the highest values and work towards a world where it is denied no one ... to walk and talk with dignity and compassion ... to do what you say you will ... to be a role model that others not find in you an excuse for themselves ... to tell people your fears so that they might help ... to act from an anger that does not destroy, but builds ... to hold in confidence what is told to you in confidence, to speak when you understand something to be wrong ... to recognize that those outside and those inside are both human beings, deserving respect ... to do my duty.

—Donna McCabe

specifically to observe crimes and report them to the police force, instead of to intervene. Even in uniform, private guards are still only private citizens; anybody on the street has the power to detain a suspect for a 'reasonable length of time'.

"Most criminals know exactly what those services do and what they can't do, and they're not afraid of them like they are the police," says Terry Schauer, senior lead officer at LAPD's West Los Angeles station. Nonetheless, the security guard industry continues to expand. Some neighborhoods, both with and without gates, are hiring private security guards to patrol their streets. Several neighborhoods in the Baton Rouge, LA area have established mandatory taxes to fund the guards. Ironically, some conservatives join civil libertarians in speaking against these residential tax districts. "It is going to Balkanize the cities even further," argues Walter Abbott of the politically conservative Americans for Tax Reform. "It's pitting neighborhood against neighborhood. It's a gate community without walls."

Electronic security systems are as ineffective as private guards. Electronic systems are standard on 30% of new homes; a fifth of United States residences now have alarm systems, compared to 1% in 1970. The

Extreme efforts to secure individual household security can result in houses becoming voluntary armed prisons, producing a community much like a fearful, righteous, angry garrison.

systems are a little too sensitive, creating a boy-cries-wolf effect: in one luxury gated community, mosquitoes can set off the infrared motion sensors. Nationally, only 1% of alarms are valid. These mistakes lead police to deprioritize any alarm signal, real or spurious. A cop's arrival an hour after the alarm sounds is meaningless, considering that

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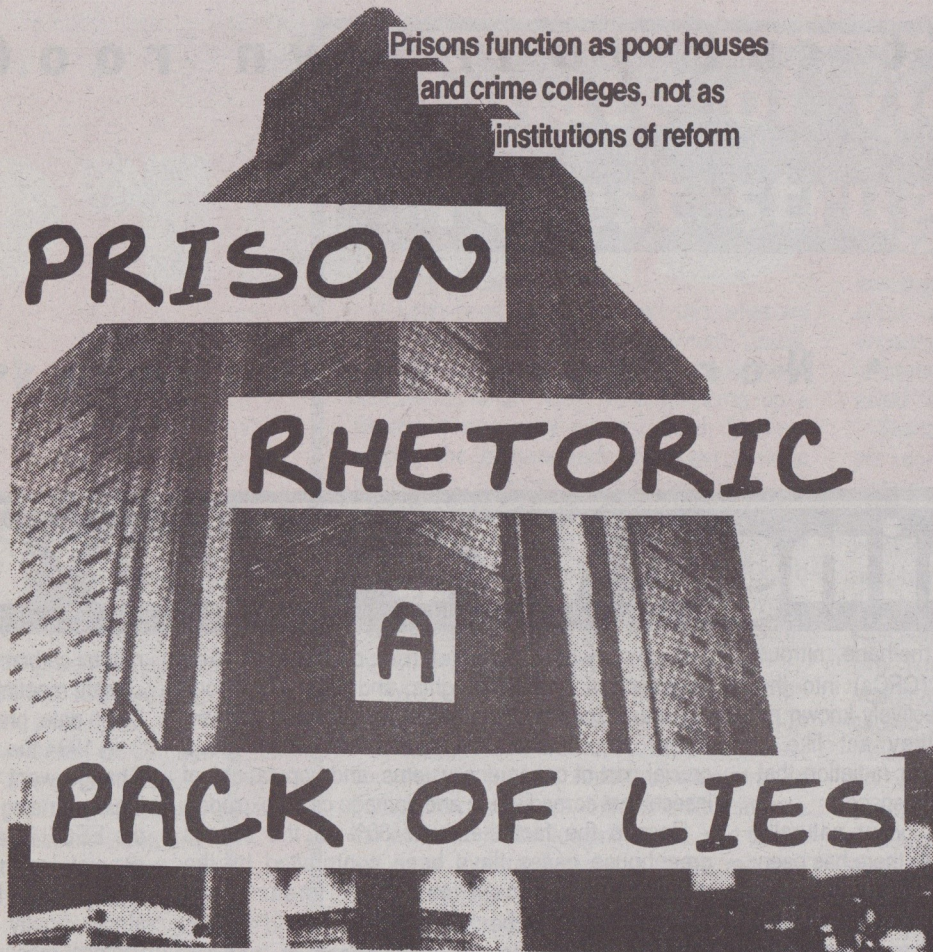


household security precautions, we can better invest our attention and resources in strengthening our whole-community health and security, enhancing and opening up our lives instead of closing them down."

Carolyn Shaffer, also a Berkeley community organizer and author, echoes these thoughts: "People are very afraid to be vulnerable and have mistakenly thought that security comes through external systems of burglar alarms, gates, guns and police forces. What I believe is that true security comes through being willing to connect openly with one another, honestly and respectfully. Building those bonds and links of connection creates much greater security than all the hardware, firepower or guards you can hire."

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With all the malarkey, studies, and obfuscation the mainstream / mass media has spewed out over the past 15 or so years about crime, you'd think someone would get the story right! So far, no one has. What an enormous shame.

Fingerpointing at Russia

The far right, the capitalist right, and part of the middle spend decades shouting and fingerpointing at the totalitarian prison gulags in Stalinist Russia. They made an icon out of Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and his works, including the marvelous *Gulag Archipelago*. All those gulag prisons were

and the true American crime situation comes into 20-20 focus.

Prisons unrelated to crime

The hard fact is that in America prisons as we have them have nothing to do with crime. Anyone who believes American prisons have anything to do with crime or criminals no doubt also believes in the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny. To address the American crime problem with force/repression/incarceration it would be necessary to lock up 35-40 million Americans. A police state is very expensive—much more than a welfare state. As it stands now, the simple truth is that American prisons are poor houses. And they are big business for

TV Feeds Fear of Crime



Even as crime rates decrease, media coverage of crime skyrockets, increasing public perception of crime

by Jennifer

In the suburbs, all is quiet. Dogs aren't barking, dark figures are not lurking in backyards, sirens are not wailing through the desolate streets. Yet every house has a security alarm, a tall iron fence, and a guard dog. Police crawl through the streets, stopping suspicious-looking cars on the main drag, to the relieved applause of suburban residents. Those who can't take the pressure move to gated communities, where rent-a-cops guard their children. What is going on here? What has created such a war zone of terror-stricken, irrational citizenry?

If it bleeds, it leads

Most people have never even punched anyone, let alone experienced violent crime firsthand. Yet the general fear of crime among Americans has risen steadily over the years, even as the actual crime rates have fallen steadily over the 1990's. Some point the blame directly at our main sources of information about the world—the mass media. The fact that so much of our television, newspaper and magazine coverage is devoted to crime is bound to have an effect on our views and perceptions of crime risk.

In fact, between 1990-97, national network

shows take crime coverage one step further, acting as storytellers of death and modern danger. They are a hybrid of news and entertainment, and they can take the goriest of both worlds: facts and dramatic techniques like creepy music and dark background sets. They emphasize the randomness and pervasiveness of crime, and underscore the message that if you're not scared now, you're just not paying attention.

Television has neither the time nor the inclination to probe deeper into the social and economic causes of crime, preferring instead topics that can be neatly summed up in under

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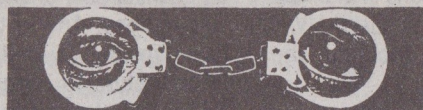
The far right, the capitalist right, and part of the middle spend decades shouting and fingerprinting at the totalitarian prison gulags in Stalinist Russia. They made an icon out of Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and his works, including the marvelous *Gulag Archipelago*. All those gulag prisons were referred to as proof of an "Evil Empire," a failed, decadent and totalitarian system, a police state seeped in corruption, suppression and oppression. So prisons were needed everywhere.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. With the far right and rapacious capitalists leading the way, the 50 United States of America combined with the federal government now incarcerate more people than China. (China has 1.4 million individuals in prison.) Further, there are 166 prisoners in China per 100,000 people, compared with 187

and the true American crime situation comes into 20-20 focus.

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dumping ground for unsaleable (elsewhere) merchandise; Prisoncrats buy anything. Who sees? Who cares?

And the show is not over. Hard right and disingenuous, rapacious, capitalist propaganda notwithstanding, prisons are created and sustained for prison administrators and employees, not for prisoners. Politicians and Prisoncrats know this scientific truth, which is:

Whatever may be said, or believed, to the contrary, institutions of all kinds are run for the benefit of the custodians, *not* for the patients, prisoners, clients, or even customers. An institution is an organism, and every organism is designed to serve its own ends first, whether those ends be administrative or pecuniary.

Crime colleges and poor houses

Capitalists are living their dream here and now: turn American into a fascist police state, turn a profit on all fronts, and turn their backs

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In fact, between 1990-97, national network news coverage of crime has fully doubled. On these networks crime stories have been presented more than any other type of story, with business and economy coverage coming in a distant second. Consistently high ratings push along this trend; if people didn't want coverage of crime, the argument goes, then why do they watch it?

Television: Most Guilty

Although all media are guilty of shining too many spotlights on crime, especially the rarely occurring violent crimes, it is television that deserves the most attack. The television in the average household is on more than seven hours a day. In that time, news programs bleat frantic bulletins about abducted children, convicted murders, violent gangs. Reality-crime shows underscore the message further, re-enacting the cries of the helpless victim at the moment of revenge. Television can do something that the printed word cannot: it can make crime look real and immediate, all in the comfort of one's home.

The fact is, Americans get most of their information from television. Research has shown that, the more people believe the crime information presented on television is credible, the more fearful they are, the more likely they are to overestimate crime rates, and the more likely they are to favor draconian measures

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Protection at a price

Of course this story wouldn't be complete without an accounting of the opportunists who know when to pounce on a rising tide of fear about crime. Politicians, for example, proclaim themselves "tough on crime in a dying society" to appeal to scared voters. Those who think they can vote their fears away encourage repressive and ineffectual tactics like three-strikes and the death penalty. The industries that rely on crime also support these politicians. The gun industry, the security guard industry, and the prison industry all have grown rapidly in recent years, thanks to the wave of fear.

Responsible media NOW!

The media-fueled rhetoric of fear is dangerous. It makes people less tolerant, more uneasy of others not like themselves. It makes people invite police intrusion into private lives in the hopes that it will sustain order. It makes people welcome closed circuit cameras on the street, with police watching on screens down at the station. It makes people breathe easier when cops stop any "suspicious" person walking down Main Street and run an ID check.

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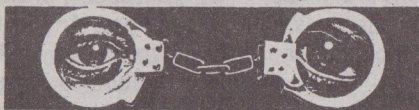
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Crime statistics misleading

Then there are the shocking American crime statistics. In the nine largest American cities, according to recent figures from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, *arrests* are made in only 20 percent of all reported crimes, and well over 1/2 of all crimes go unreported. So of all crimes committed, *arrests* are made in no more than 10 percent of the cases. Upwards of 90 percent of all American criminals are never so much as arrested! (NAFTA advocates should note that the *arrest* to *reported* crimes in Mexico city in 1997 was approximately 3 percent!) Add to all this the forgotten innocents in American prisons, the estimated millions of Americans who commit crimes by deliberately not reporting or underreporting taxes owed, corporate crime, and the hundreds of thousands of persons who *annually* enter the U.S. of A. illegally (a crime)

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Crime colleges and poor houses

Capitalists are living their dream here and now: turn American into a fascist police state, turn a profit on all fronts, and turn their backs on fellow Americans. Meanwhile, although American prisons today are nothing more than poor houses and warehouses, they do function as crime colleges. As the recidivist rate proves, the more individuals incarcerated the more recidivists there are in training! The life blood of big business and capitalism is repeat customers, and in the prison business, repeat customers are called "recidivists."

Rapacious capitalists have discovered a perpetual motion device, an ever-blooming money tree. In some states, such as Texas, which pay no prisoner wages, what could be better than absolute slave labor? Squeeze the life blood out of poor house residents. Plutocrats know that American prisons have nothing to do with crime, but rely on Abe Lincoln's statement—"You can fool all of the people some of the time" — to rest certain that the American public will not catch on.

By Robert J. Zani No. 328938

Michael Unit, 12-A-39

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The fact is, Americans get most of their information from television. Research has shown that, the more people believe the crime information presented on television is credible, the more fearful they are, the more likely they are to overestimate crime rates, and the more likely they are to favor Draconian measures against criminals.

And it's not just the news that has this effect; popular programs like America's Most Wanted, Cops, and LAPD: Life on the Beat also contribute to the fear of crime. These

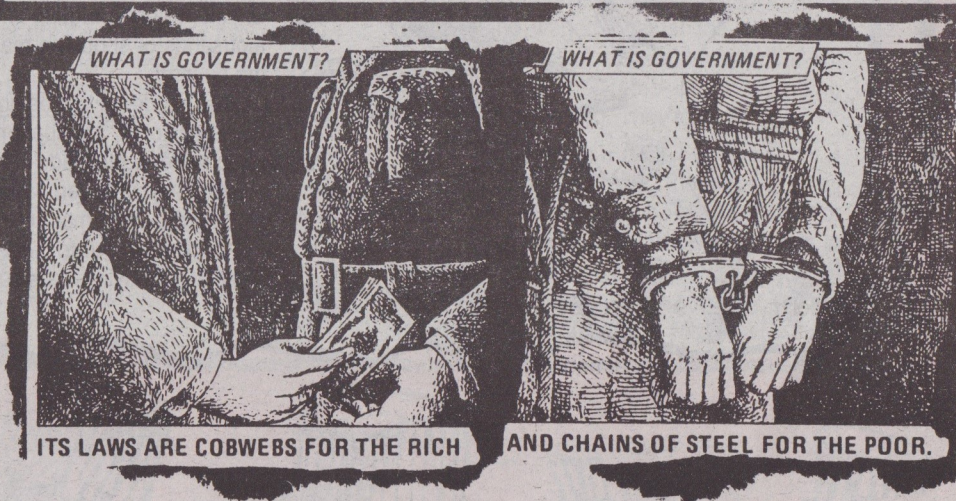
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No matter that crime rates have been falling steadily. Disproportionate media coverage leads to a highly distorted view of actual crime. Until the media take responsibility for portraying crime levels accurately, it will be almost impossible to make real progress on reducing crime.





Don't cut your own roots

No Clearcut

Globally • Northern California • Bay Area

Global Warming: We can't

by Guasapa

This past year has seen torrential downpours, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, decimation of fish populations, heat waves and drought. While jokes about global warming help ease anxiety, it's really not very funny. Most credible scientists agree that the record-breaking "natural" disasters of the past few years, for example those brought on by last winter's El Niño, are partly attributable to the billions of tons of "greenhouse gases" that have been spewed into the atmosphere during the last 150 years.

Apologists point out other factors that, of course, contribute to the increased perception of climactic catastrophe. For example, in many less-developed countries economic and population pressures are forcing more people to live in exposed and marginal areas vulnerable to extremes of weather. In developed countries like the US, developers have become fond of building resorts and houses for rich people on marginal and exposed areas. In both cases, the mainstream news media has become more effective in sensationalizing losses to human life and insurance companies.

But fools aside, global warming is a fact of life. The only real hope for averting catastrophic consequences is to immediately stop discharging the gases that

especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxides, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere. These gases are collectively known as "greenhouse gases", because they act like a greenhouse, trapping long-wave solar radiation that would otherwise be reflected back into space.

Most of the greenhouse gases occur naturally (though not the CFCs), and historically there has been a balance between the amount of CO₂ emitted by plants and animals or through fires and volcanoes, and the ability of natural carbon "sinks" such as ocean plankton and forests to absorb the carbon. But the

patterns, which affects the distribution and frequency of floods, droughts, and fires. Tornadoes and hurricanes become more frequent and intense. Hotter ocean waters kill coral reefs, which are a crucial part of ocean ecosystems, and populations of insects that carry disease and damage crops explode.

Despite the fact that over 80% of the excess greenhouse gases have been contributed by the industrialized countries, the impact will disproportionately be borne by the world's poor. Rising temperatures and an increase of "natural" disasters will lead to massive crop failures and loss of

natural carbon sinks. There have been climate meetings every year since 1992, but to date, pretty much nothing has been done.

In 1994 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change went into effect. It is a legally-binding treaty, signed by 154 countries (the EEC), its agreements are not legally binding in general, leaving specific obligations to be decided later. The US has been slow to ratify it, but along, finally agreeing to the Kyoto Protocol meeting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels. In the worst case, it could be the worst, the US has been planned to be 5.2% of the total. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report, Commission on the necessary to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.)

In addition, the treaty includes provisions for the least developed countries. Worst of all, the treaty does not enforce even these laughable provisions. The 1998 meeting in Buenos Aires has focused negotiations has focused on the fact that the rest of the world without industrialized

What a city can do to discourage use of cars, a major source of CO₂ emissions

- Limit parking in downtown areas and encourage car pools, van pools, and high-occupancy vehicle lanes
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- Implement congestion pricing technologies that charge automobile drivers for the road space they use
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But fools aside, global warming is a fact of life. The only real hope for averting catastrophic consequences is to immediately stop discharging the gases that cause global warming. Obviously, we could do this if there were the political will. Unfortunately, the governing bodies theoretically "in charge" of finding a solution to the climate change problem are more concerned with creating a climate friendly for corporate profits than in maintaining a climate friendly for human beings. And in the short-sighted view of corporations, reducing greenhouse gas emissions means investing in new technology. Besides, they stand to gain the most with climate change as new markets open for technological fixes.

What is global warming anyway?

Global warming is a result of physical and biological responses to the massive increase of certain gases,

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rate at which stored carbon-based (fossil) fuels like oil, coal, and gas have been burned during the 150 years since the industrial revolution has dramatically overwhelmed the capacity of any natural ecological process to cope. In addition, these "sinks" have less capacity than ever before, as a result of world-wide decimation of forest lands, and reductions in plankton density due to damage caused by increased UV-B radiation (because CFCs have depleted the protective atmospheric ozone layer).

What will it mean?

Because these gases trap extra heat from the sun, already the world-wide average temperature has risen about a degree. That may not sound like much, but the effects multiply: as polar ice caps melt and warmer water expands, sea levels rise and ocean currents change. Higher temperatures create changes in wind

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Despite the fact that over 80% of the excess greenhouse gases have been contributed by the industrialized countries, the impact will disproportionately be borne by the world's poor. Rising temperatures and an increase of "natural" disasters will lead to massive crop failures and loss of

coastal land. Countries whose economies depend on agriculture are most vulnerable to food shortages and economic ruin—the rich are unlikely to ever go hungry. As more and more people are displaced from subsistence agriculture, they will have few options but to migrate to the peripheries of cities, joining the burgeoning pool of cheap labor for the transnational corporations. And in this era of neoliberalism, city governments are unlikely to be able to develop the infrastructure to cope with these new immigrants. Policy think tanks already warn that these changes may cause "social unrest" that will be detrimental to business.

What's being done about it?

Some degree of global warming cannot be avoided. But how bad it will be depends on how quickly action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase

natural carbon sinks. There are climate meetings every year but to date, pretty much not

In 1994 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change went into effect. A legally-binding treaty, signed by the European Community (the EEC), its agreements are in general, leaving specific obligations to be decided later. The US has been slow to join along, finally agreeing at the Kyoto Protocol meeting to reduce emissions based on 1990 levels. In the worst case, the US could be the worst, the US is planned to be 5.2% of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report, which is necessary to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.)

In addition, the treaty leaves many provisions for enforcement to the countries. Worst of all, the treaty does not enforce even these laughable provisions. The 1998 meeting in Buenos Aires negotiations has focused on the fact that countries are going to face the rest of the world without industrialized-world levels.

Negotiations have gotten stuck on different arguments that are inaction: issues of equity, to allocate responsibility, should we measure all greenhouse gas emissions? Should a country's current emissions determine its future climate change determination? How now needed to minimize greenhouse emissions quota be calculated? Emission levels, populations, and pay for saving remaining rainforests? Is the climate

Continued

Berkeley Lorax struggles to save city's trees



Berkeley residents are organizing to oppose business interests who want to transform Berkeley's public spaces into an antiseptic shopping mall by eliminating all of the mature trees from downtown Berkeley. The plan to cut the trees, developed by Berkeley city officials at the behest of merchants and

be pruned, they reject the cutting of all mature trees and business signs or just to have "regularly" spaced trees.

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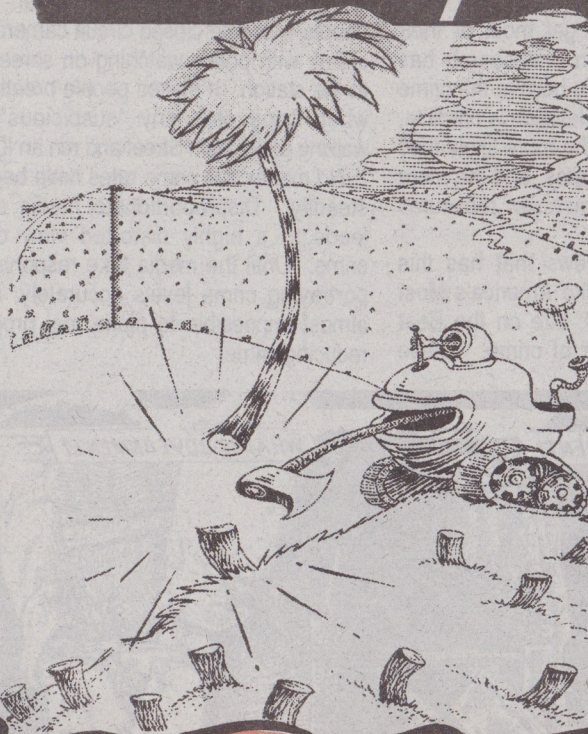
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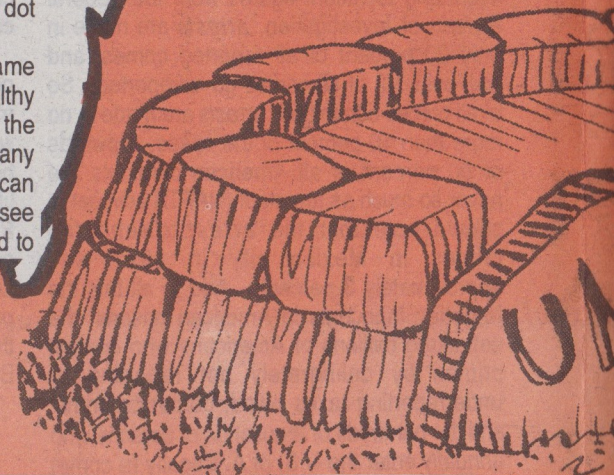
The trees to be cut, which are a variety of species at "irregular" locations, are to be replaced with more "uniform" species in more "uniform" locations. The plan is designed to increase the visibility of commercial signs on buildings, eliminate tree-shaded places for "undesirable" people (youth, poor, homeless) to stand, and reorient the downtown towards a more commercial, uniform look. Smaller trees at regular intervals recall the more business friendly look of the thousands of shopping malls and suburban shopping districts which now dot the country.

The residents opposing the urban clearcut, organized under the name Berkeley Lorax, are supporting an alternative plan that would save the healthy mature trees plus add new trees to empty sidewalk tree wells and in the median strip between parking bays and the street. Berkeley Lorax wants any redesign to treat mature trees as individuals rather than furniture which can just be thrown out to "redecorate" the downtown. While BL is willing to see some sick or dying trees cut, and while they support pruning trees that need to

be pruned, they reject the cutting of all mature trees, business signs or just to have "regularly" spaced trees.

At a recent action, BL members symbolically chained threatened trees. More actions to defend the trees does not adopt an alternative plan which would protect healthy, mature trees in downtown Berkeley.

Concerned people are encouraged to contact the Planning Commission to request the alternative plan. To get involved, call the Berkeley Lorax, 510-849-Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705.



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Clearcut

• Northern California • Berkeley

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Despite the fact that over 80% of the excess greenhouse gases have been contributed by the industrialized countries, the impact will disproportionately be borne by the world's poor. Rising temperatures and an increase of "natural" disasters will lead to massive crop failures and loss of

natural carbon sinks. There have been big international climate meetings every year for the last 10 years now, but to date, pretty much nothing has been done.

In 1994 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change went into effect. While this is technically a legally-binding treaty, signed by 165 countries (plus the EEC), its agreements are pathetically weak and general, leaving specific obligations to be worked out later. The US has been stalling and backpedaling all along, finally agreeing at last December's Kyoto Protocol meeting to reduce its emissions 7% by 2010, based on 1990 levels. In this competition to see who could be the worst, the overall reduction is only planned to be 5.2%. (According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's First Assessment Report, CO₂ cuts of 60-80% are necessary to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.)

In addition, the treaty leaves lots of loopholes, for example, provisions for emission trading between countries. Worst of all, there's no real mechanism to enforce even these laughable goals. The November 1998 meeting in Buenos Aires to continue the negotiations has focused on how industrialized countries are going to facilitate development in the rest of the world without increasing their emissions to industrialized-world levels.

Negotiations have gotten hung up on dozens of different arguments that are forwarded to justify inaction: issues of equity, technology transfer, how to allocate responsibility, scientific uncertainty, etc. Should we measure all greenhouse gases, or just CO₂? Should a country's current or past role in causing climate change determine its share of the sacrifices now needed to minimize it? Should a country's emissions quota be calculated according to current emission levels, populations size, or GNP? Who should pay for saving remaining tropical (and temperate!) rainforests? Is the climate change data biased?

Continued on page 14

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coastal land. Countries whose economies depend on agriculture are most vulnerable to food shortages and economic ruin—the rich are unlikely to ever go hungry. As more and more people are displaced from subsistence agriculture, they will have few options but to migrate to the peripheries of cities, joining the burgeoning pool of cheap labor for the transnational corporations. And in this era of neoliberalism, city governments are unlikely to be able to develop the infrastructure to cope with these new immigrants. Policy think tanks already warn that these changes may cause "social unrest" that will be detrimental to business.

What's being done about it?

Some degree of global warming cannot be avoided. But how bad it will be depends on how quickly action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase

Clim For

by Karen Pickett

I flash back to 1991, when I was 17, were fearful of what they almost killed me. "I use lethal force"—the frenzy of animosity among the loggers about jobs, --"Some said. Yeah. And some

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What does it mean?

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average temperature has risen
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Continued on page 14

Struggles to save city's trees

nts are organizing to oppose business interests who want to
ey's public spaces into an antiseptic shopping mall by
the mature trees from downtown Berkeley. The plan to cut
ed by Berkeley city officials at the behest of merchants and
Berkeley Association, would "clear-cut" over 200 mature,
ng Shattuck Ave. from University to Durant and along
ford to Milvia.

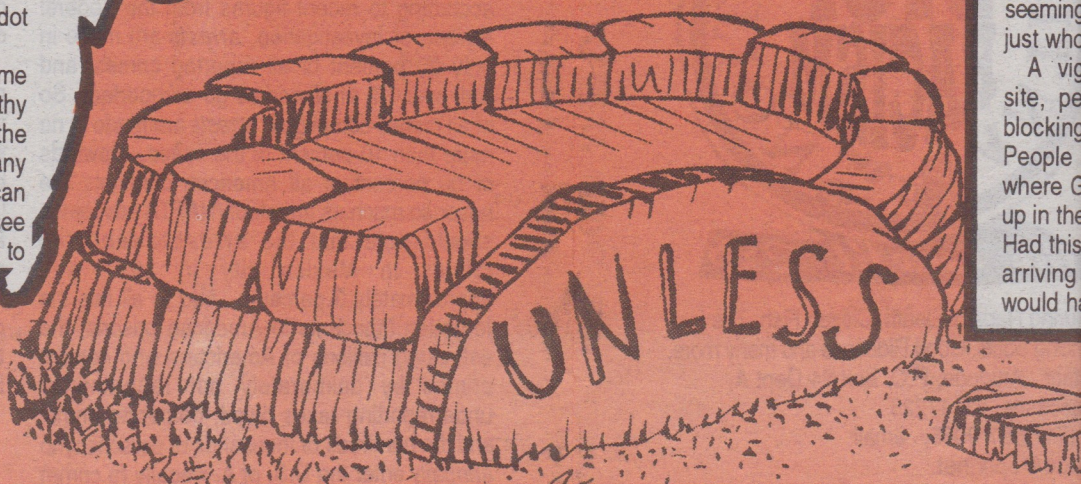
cut, which are a variety of species at "irregular" locations,
d with more "uniform" species in more "uniform" locations.
ed to increase the visibility of commercial signs on buildings,
led places for "undesirable" people (youth, poor, homeless)
ent the downtown towards a more commercial, uniform look.
gular intervals recall the more business friendly look of the
ping malls and suburban shopping districts which now dot

opposing the urban clearcut, organized under the name
e supporting an alternative plan that would save the healthy
add new trees to empty sidewalk tree wells and in the
en parking bays and the street. Berkeley Lorax wants any
mature trees as individuals rather than furniture which can
to "redecorate" the downtown. While BL is willing to see
trees cut, and while they support pruning trees that need to

be pruned, they reject the cutting of all mature trees to promote visibility of
business signs or just to have "regularly" spaced and "uniform" appearing
trees.

At a recent action, BL members symbolically chained themselves to the
threatened trees. More actions to defend the trees could follow if the city
does not adopt an alternative plan which would preserve the bulk of the
healthy, mature trees in downtown Berkeley.

Concerned people are encouraged to contact the City Council and the
Planning Commission to request the alternative plan. For more information or
to get involved, call the Berkeley Lorax, 510-849-1902 or write to 3124
Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705.



ut

Berkeley

hide

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Climate of violence in Northcoast Forest struggle claims first life

by Karen Pickett

I flash back to 1990. Isn't this what we were fearful of when we exclaimed, "Jesus, they almost killed Judi Bari! That shows they'll use lethal force"--they were whipping up a frenzy of animosity against Earth First!ers among the loggers with dishonest rhetoric about jobs, --"Someone could get killed!", we said. Yeah. And someone did.

Just after noon on Thursday, September 17, Headwaters Forest defender David Nathan Chain, known to his friends as Gypsy, lost his life when a tree cut by a Pacific Lumber logger crushed him to death.

Gypsy and eight other Earth First!ers had ventured into an active timber harvest plan in the Grizzly Creek area of Headwaters Forest complex to protest reported violations of Forest Practice Rules, bring the violations to the attention of the logging crew, and to get the state forestry agency to come out and inspect the site. On the 17th and the previous day, a small group of people had been engaging the loggers on site in dialogue in an attempt to slow the logging down. PL had not amended their logging plan to reflect the road building they were conducting next to marbled murrelet habitat. The day following Gypsy's death, the California Dept. of Forestry did inspect the site and subsequently issued a finding that a violation had occurred.

After the tree that crushed Gypsy was felled, the small group of people in his affinity group scrambled out of the brush where they had taken cover, yelling at the logger that he could have killed them when one of the group started frantically calling out for Gypsy, saying "Where's Gypsy, he was right behind me, I can't find him, Gypsy!" When the logger

investigation of the site impossible. It is not clear what PL's policy is for workers encountering protesters in the woods but this is certainly not the first time loggers have acted menacingly towards protesters.

The blockade/vigil continued until early in the morning of Oct. 7 when 42 members of several law enforcement agencies descended on the Grizzly Creek site to break up the blockade. They forcibly removed those at the site, breaking up the barricade and moved up the hill to where several activists were attached to a loader. They proceeded to douse two young women who were locked to equipment with pepper spray, pouring the caustic substance directly into their eyes from their hands. These two women, once taken to jail, were denied medical attention for more than 24 hours. The following morning, a group of 30 people returned to the site and set up a road blockade consisting of 9 people linked together across the road. To intimidate those taking part in the blockade into unlocking, sheriff's deputies singled out one woman and subjected her to three applications of pepper spray, using her pain as a warning to the others. Finally, at the end of October, PL hauled their yarder (the equipment used to remove downed trees) out of the area, indicating that they won't be clearing the site soon.

While Gypsy's death is not as overtly political an act as the bombing of Judi Bari was, as the attacks on the Black Panthers

The Humboldt Sheriff's Dept. also has a long record of non-enforcement and non-investigation of incidents of violence, harassment and threats of violence when the targets are people associated with Earth First! or Headwaters defense. The backdrop for Gypsy's death is the tolerance and encouragement of animosity and violence towards Earth First!

Clearly, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Dept., the law enforcement agency currently under litigation for a previous incident of swabbing pepper spray into the eyes of Earth First! activists is not the fair and impartial agency to conduct an investigation.

Scores of organizations and individuals have rallied around a call for an independent investigation in the wake of this killing, including Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America, the Action Resource Center, the Sierra Club, many members of the clergy, and 100 signers on to a letter circulated by EPIC calling for an independent investigation of the incident and of Pacific Lumber's and Humboldt county law enforcement's policy of encouraging violence against environmentalists. Humboldt attorney Steve Schectman is preparing a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of the family.

The list of incidents that have been unprosecuted and uninvestigated in course of forest campaigns here is long--they've brought snipers out, threatened to shoot people, driven a logging truck into a crowd, broken a nose



every year for the last 10 years now, but nothing has been done. The Framework Convention on Climate Change. While this is technically a treaty, signed by 165 countries (plus protocols), the commitments are pathetically weak and the obligations to be worked out have been stalling and backpedaling all along. At last December's Kyoto Conference, the commitment to reduce its emissions 7% by 2010, compared to 1990 levels. In this competition to see who can reduce the most, the overall reduction is only 0.52%. (According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's First Working Group report, CO₂ cuts of 60-80% are needed to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases to safe levels.)

The Kyoto treaty leaves lots of loopholes, for example, for emission trading between countries. In all, there's no real mechanism to enforce the laughable goals. The November meeting in Buenos Aires to continue the work of the Convention focused on how industrialized countries could facilitate development in the Third World without increasing their emissions to safe levels.

People have gotten hung up on dozens of excuses that are forwarded to justify inaction: technology transfer, how to measure emissions, scientific uncertainty, etc. But the real issue is greenhouse gases, or just CO₂? Is it the current or past role in causing global warming to blame its share of the sacrifices? Should a country's emissions be calculated according to current consumption size, or GNP? Who should be responsible for financing tropical (and temperate!) climate change data biased?

Continued on page 14

trees

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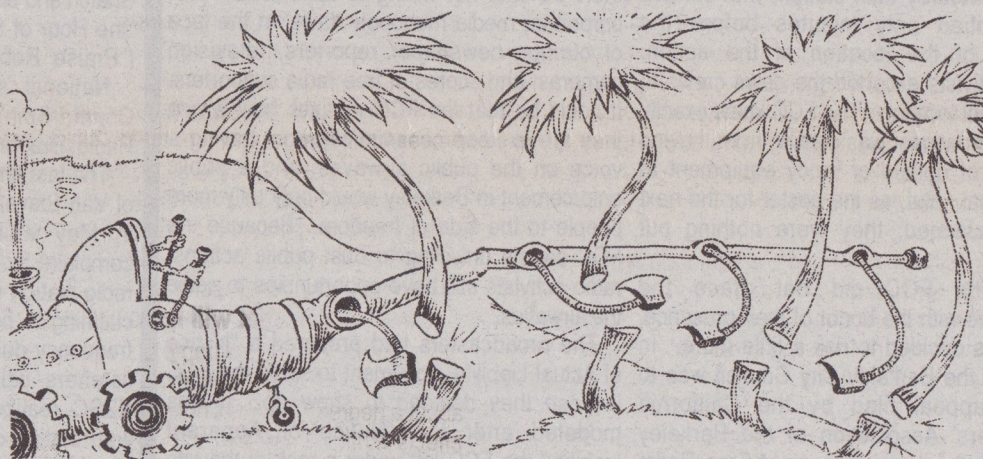
The timber company immediately dove for cover, issuing a statement calling the death a "tragic accident", claiming the loggers were not aware of protesters' presence and citing what they called their "best in the industry" safety record. They also claimed Gypsy was hit by a "domino tree", a second tree downed by the tree cut by the logger. These claims had nothing to do with the truth, but were issued before any details emerged.

The fact that the loggers were indeed aware of protesters' presence was corroborated by a video tape recorded less than an hour before Gypsy was killed, containing threats and admonitions by the logger to "Get the fuck out of here or there's going to be a tree coming your way!"

Pacific Lumber's disingenuous claim that the loggers didn't know they were endangering anyone was followed by comments to the media suggesting that it's time to stop these protests, that organizers are putting young recruits in harm's way, etc. These media feeds culminated in what looks to be the first volley in a "blame the victims" smear campaign: a press packet containing 2 pages of Earth

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While Gypsy's death is not as overtly political an act as the bombing of Judi Bari was, as the attacks on the Black Panthers



were, it was surrounded by, immersed in, fed by and caused by a political attack that has been going on for a number of years, peaking in 1988-1990 and in recent years escalating again.

What happened in 1990 when the bomb was planted in Judi Bari's car, (a bomb that was meant to kill) was carried out as part of an ongoing agenda that was calculated and deliberate. What happened to Gypsy happened rather spontaneously in that the logger didn't wake up that morning and say, "Hey, I'm gonna go kill me a protester..." but the two incidents warrant comparison in that both were promulgated by the climate of violence, by the tolerance of violence against Earth First! that has been bred and fed by Pacific Lumber &

conduct an investigation. Scores of organizations and individuals have rallied around a call for an independent investigation in the wake of this killing, including Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America, the Action Resource Center, the Sierra Club, many members of the clergy, and 100 signers on to a letter circulated by EPIC calling for an independent investigation of the incident and of Pacific Lumber's and Humboldt county law enforcement's policy of encouraging violence against environmentalists. Humboldt attorney Steve Schectman is preparing a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of the family.

The list of incidents that have been unprosecuted and uninvestigated in course of forest campaigns here is long--they've brought snipers out, threatened to shoot people, driven a logging truck into a crowd, broken a nose

with a full punch to the face, assaulted people, hog-tied c.d.ers, etc.

But it's worth recognizing that with the exception of the bombing of Judi Bari and the killing of Gypsy, (BIG exceptions, granted) the level of violence against eco-preservationists has been much worse in places other than Northern California, like Idaho...and Nigeria!

When we decry this tragedy and say it must not happen again we have to grapple with why it happens. It's not because loggers have the bad seed gene, or because there's a 'natural' animosity between loggers and enviros. It is because the greed-driven profit motive seeks a reduction of the numbers of people defending the earth and holding the earth

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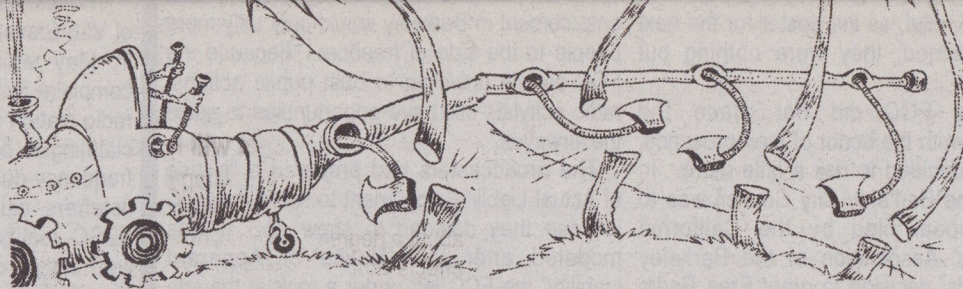
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Pacific Lumbers' disingenuous claim that the loggers didn't know they were endangering anyone was followed by comments to the media suggesting that it's time to stop these protests, that organizers are putting young recruits in harm's way, etc. These media feeds culminated in what looks to be the first volley in a "blame the victims" smear campaign: a press packet containing 2 pages of Earth First!'s Direct Action Manual describing "cat and mouse" woods actions. PL president John Campbell's comment in the accompanying press release was "If you read the rules, ... it's just a game. Only the people who work in the forest and their families are supposed to be hurt", seemingly suffering a memory lapse in terms of just who had lost their life.

A vigil and blockade quickly evolved at the site, people locking down to a junked car blocking the access road the next morning. People locked to equipment at the ridgetop where Gypsy was killed, and an alter was set up in the middle of the road near the entrance. Had this blockade not been in place, PL crews arriving for work the morning of Sept. 18 would have hauled out the trees, rendering an



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Whether or not the logger had fully come to terms with the fact that he could be responsible for taking someone's life, it is clear he had directly threatened to fall trees in the direction of protesters, and then followed through on that threat. On the video tape are his shouts, "Better wear a hard hat, because this one's coming for you" Earlier he had screamed "Oh fuck! I wish I had my fucking pistol! I'm going to have to start packing my pistol"

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When we decry this tragedy and say it must not happen again we have to grapple with why it happens. It's not because loggers have the bad seed gene, or because there's a 'natural' animosity between loggers and enviros. It is because the greed-driven profit motive seeks a reduction of the numbers of people defending the earth and holding the earth sacred.

Logging is not a safe job. Mill work is not a safe job. That's why they have safety standards. Protesting is not necessarily a safe job. That's one of the reasons we have non-violence preps. We're defenders in a WAR that is being waged against the earth and casualties can be of several species. I'm not suggesting it's inevitable--I'm contending that's why it happened. They're at war.

Let's neither make a martyr of Gypsy nor a villain of Arlington Ammons, the logger. Gypsy deserves to be a hero, who died fighting for what he believed in. And while blame needs to be laid at the feet of the logger, the bulk of blame needs to be placed squarely on the shoulders of the corporation: Maxxam/PL.





FREE RADIO UPDATES

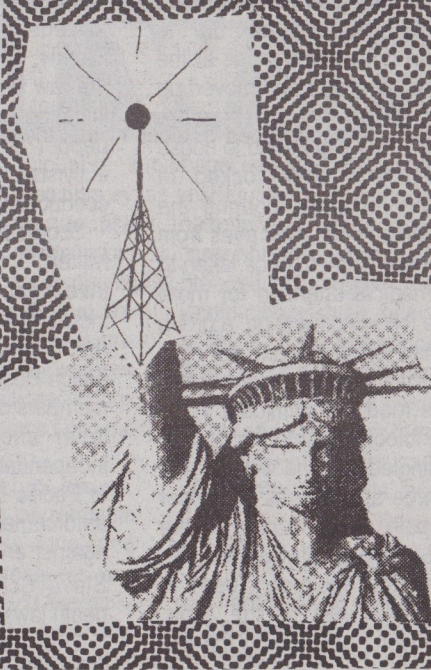
FRB FRUSTRATES THE FCC

by Polly B. Souleeto

Despite the FCC's stepped up enforcement actions against micro-broadcasters nationwide and despite the FCC's injunction that shut down Free Radio Berkeley, East Bay covert broadcasts have continued regular broadcasts for more than two months every Sunday night on 104.1 FM. Each broadcast has happened from a different location for security reasons.

Free Radio activists have also kept the struggle for democratic communications alive with two recent well publicized acts of civil disobedience after the FCC tried and failed to capture two activists in the Berkeley hills last August (see "Microradio Activists Dodge FCC Raid" by Cecelia B. Sapremia, *Slingshot*, Autumn 1998).

The first action since the would-be captors missed their mark took place with at least a hundred close supporters surrounding the impromptu station broadcasting from a secret location. The public at large was notified of the broadcast by large posters resembling announcements for a prize fight. "Free Radio vs. the FCC--will the hometown microradio activists defeat the government in the fight for the airwaves?" A press conference was held at the nearby train station, with camera crews notified only minutes before the broadcast of the location of the action. Masked activists escorted the news crews to



with University of California police to capture two broadcasters, but will not face crowds of microradio supporters willing to risk arrest and commit civil disobedience. It seems that the FCC was not willing to uphold their corporate, media monopoly "laws" in the face of curious newspaper reporters, television cameras, and scores of free radio supporters.



Free Radio Santa Cruz

by Skidmark Bob (with editing by intrusive Slingshot editors)

While Free Radio Berkeley and San Francisco Liberation Radio may have been forced off the air by last summer's FCC (Federal Communications Commission) injunction, other micro-powered stations around the country, including Freak Radio Santa Cruz, have pumped up the programming!

FRSC has been liberating 96.3 FM 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in total defiance of FCC bullshit for almost 4 years, providing the only real alternative news and views available in its broadcast area. The station features local news and street level interviews on programs such as Bathrobes Broad sides, V Man & Rockin the Boat, Resist Locally, queercore with Sista Snatch and even Sunday morning services with "the Hour of Slack" Church of the Subgenius. ("Praise Bob!")

National syndicated programs such as

FCC successfully shut down Phantom 104.1 FM in San Jose after they failed to defy the FCC.

FRSC has more to worry about than the FCC: the real work is running a radio station 24/7. Between paying rent, worrying about equipment breakdown, dues, fundraising, making looptapes, talking to Indie record companies and even fighting the local police in court for the right to table downtown, FRSC activists are busy. The biggest problem is organizing 30 to 50 expressive programmers into a consensus, tackling issues like hate speech, free speech and different views on sexism, racism, etc. in a diverse group. FRSC is a lesson in anarchy learning personal



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The first action since the would-be captors missed their mark took place with at least a hundred close supporters surrounding the impromptu station broadcasting from a secret location. The public at large was notified of the broadcast by large posters resembling announcements for a prize fight. "Free Radio vs. the FCC--will the hometown microradio activists defeat the government in the fight for the airwaves?" A press conference was held at the nearby train station, with camera crews notified only minutes before the broadcast of the location of the action. Masked activists escorted the news crews to the broadcast location. The FCC knew exactly where the broadcast was coming from, having thousands of dollars of fancy equipment at their disposal. But, as the poster for the next action proclaimed, they were nothing but chicken.

Since the FCC did not grace the broadcasters with the honor of their presence, the activists decided to risk a little more. In September the Berkeley City Council was to hear an appeal filed by the California Broadcasters' Association of the Berkeley Zoning Boards' decision to grant Free Radio Berkeley a use permit for their radio antenna (now a point only in principle since FRB got shut down and moved out of that location altogether). A second action was planned for this debacle. The activists broadcasted on the steps of Berkeley City Hall to a crowd of 80 that night, as well as at least 10 different print and television outlets. Broadcasters dressed up as Uncle Sam, the Statue of Liberty, and an FCC agent wearing a chicken mask. Community leaders, former FRB listeners, and other malcontents spoke on the air and to the crowd, including some former FRB programmers who deliberately violated the court injunction (see "No Freedom Without Communication," by P.B. Floyd, Autumn 1998). As with the first rally, the FCC was nowhere



with University of California police to capture two broadcasters, but will not face crowds of microradio supporters willing to risk arrest and commit civil disobedience. It seems that the FCC was not willing to uphold their pro-corporate, media monopoly "laws" in the face of curious newspaper reporters, television cameras, and scores of free radio supporters. It could be that the FCC realizes how wrong they are to keep communities from having a voice on the public airwaves, and a public enforcement in Berkeley would only rally more people to the side of freedom. Because the FCC seems unwilling to bust public actions, radio activists still have opportunities to seize the airwaves.

The broadcasters had prepared a "Notice of Actual Liability" document to serve the FCC in case they decided to show up. It was modeled after the "Notice of Apparent Liability" the FCC left under a rock at the site of the hill broadcast August 2nd. The broadcaster's document charged the FCC with, among other things, having a vested interest in the broadcasting business (according to the Communications Act of 1934, the FCC cannot have any members who are also serving broadcasting interests--FCC Chairman William Kennard is a former National Association of Broadcasters lawyer).

Even more spectacular radio civil disobedience actions may be in progress by the time you read this article. Stay Tuned! For info or to get involved, call 510 587-3388.

Santa Cruz

by Skidmark Bob (with editing by intrusive Slingshot editors)

While Free Radio Berkeley and San Francisco Liberation Radio may have been forced off the air by last summer's FCC (Federal Communications Commission) injunction, other micro-powered stations around the country, including Freak Radio Santa Cruz, have pumped up the programming!

FRSC has been liberating 96.3 FM 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in total defiance of FCC bullshit for almost 4 years, providing the only real alternative news and views available in its broadcast area. The station features local news and street level interviews on programs such as Bathrobes Broad sides, V Man & Rockin the Boat, Resist Locally, queercore with Sista Snatch and even Sunday morning services with "the Hour of Slack" Church of the Subgenius. ("Praise Bob!")

National syndicated programs such as CounterSpin, Making Contact, Alternative Radio, Bruderhoff Radio are also aired daily.

The last time the FCC (Siskel & Ebert team of Van Stavern and Zears) came by was back in May while they were investigating a complaint by KZSC 88.1, which is the college radio station in the area. A prankster jammer claiming to be FRSC broke onto a simulcast frequency during a concert. After angry 88.1 listeners called making threats to FRSC, KZSC realized that the micro-powered, 40 watt station could not have been the culprit. Nonetheless, the FCC stuck their nose into the situation.

When the FCC arrived, a courageous 12 year old girl asserted her rights and refused entry to the FCC. The FCC was in the middle of trying to convince her that "we don't need a warrant" when her mom came home and told the FCC to wait on the sidewalk while she called a lawyer. Instead, she proceeded to grab a video camera and record the entire event as she and a friend again refused entry to the FCC, who eventually left. All during this, DJ Venus was funking it up on the airwaves, sending shout outs to the FCC agents, etc. The same day the

FCC successfully shut down Phantom 104.1 FM in San Jose after they failed to defy the FCC.

FRSC has more to worry about than the FCC: the real work is running a radio station 24/7. Between paying rent, worrying about equipment breakdown, dues, fundraising, making looptapes, talking to Indie record companies and even fighting the local police in court for the right to table downtown, FRSC activists are busy. The biggest problem is organizing 30 to 50 expressive programmers into a consensus, tackling issues like hate speech, free speech and different views on sexism, racism, etc. in a diverse group. FRSC is a lesson in anarchy learning personal



responsibility as an independent cooperative, keeping each other in check and deal with hard issues no other radio station really deals with.

The station has built and is building community support in Santa Cruz, and has been recognized as a media institution. One programmer's political program: "We need more micro stations on the air now! Free Radio Berkeley and San Francisco Liberation Radio need to get back on the air! When they bust us, we'll just go back on the air. Fuck 'em!"

The station needs money and tapes to play on the air. To contact FRSC, write PO Box 7507, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Email: frsc@cruziio.com. Or call voicemail: 408-427-4523 or the studio line 408-423-5361.

EARTH

thousands of dollars of fancy equipment at their disposal. But, as the poster for the next action proclaimed, they were nothing but chicken.

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It is interesting, but not so surprising, that the FCC is quite willing to storm into the hills

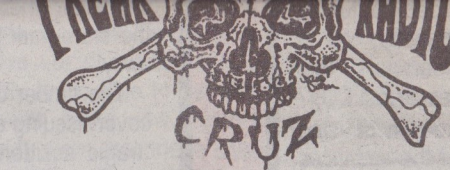
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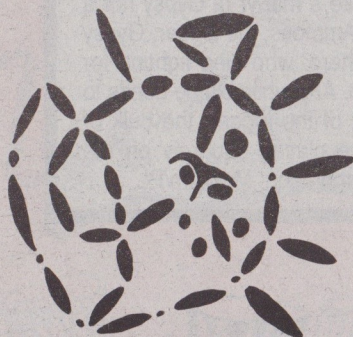
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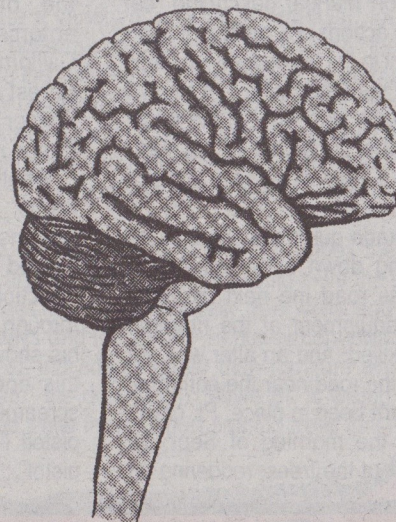
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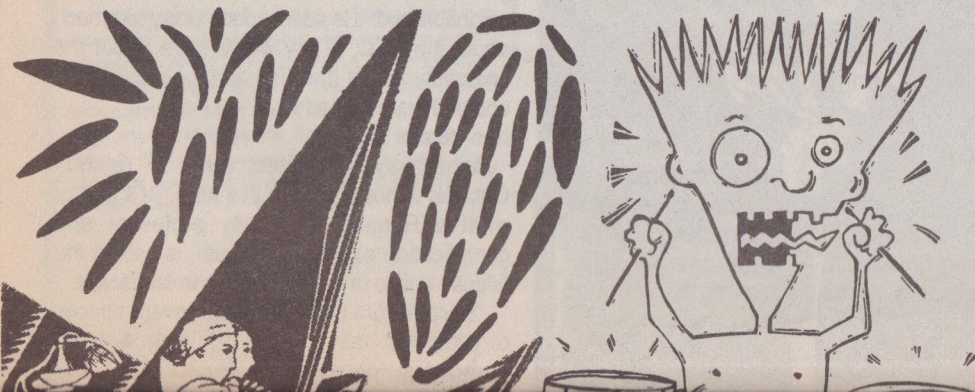


Bike Mural, Berkeley. Photo by Elisa

RECLAIM THE STREETS

Following on the heels of the wildly successful Global Street Party last May, London Reclaim the Streets has announced plans for another global Street Party action on June 18, 1999. The 1999 action is set for Friday so that street parties around the world can rupture the everyday and disrupt business as usual on a workday. Street Parties are planned for every major financial center around the world (plus the downtown bank district of many small towns and cities near year). Those who destroy the earth and oppress her people

have names, addresses and titles: banks, stock traders, insurance conglomerates and the like. Come dance, play, redecorate and imagine a world where people are free and live in harmony with nature. Last year 30 cities participated: this year the sky is the limit! Contact RTS by searching Reclaim the Streets on the web. Or try the folks at the Critical Mass, Earth First! chapter, or anti-neoliberalism organization near you. And remember to tell your boss you need the day off on June 18.



PROFANE EXISTENCE RIP*

'rest in punk



Profane Existence, the Minneapolis collective that produced the excellent magazine of the same name and ran a mailorder distro and record label, announced October 11 that they had decided to cease operations. Pledging that the members would stay active politically and culturally, a statement to supporters cited declining collective membership, financial considerations and the "overwhelming work load and stress" associated with keeping the collective going as reasons for ending the collective. "By ending the collective now, we are hoping to do so on a high point, not wait until it totally collapses in on itself in a huge mess" read the statement.

Coming on the heels of the end of Love and Rage, the demise of Profane Existence seemed to have more to do with the over-extension endemic to DIY (Do It Yourself) and alternative institutions than the factional fights that killed L&R. A part of the statement titled "we have no lives" rings true for many struggling radical projects: "Balancing commitments to PE has also meant making huge sacrifices in our personal lives. We have missed countless beautiful days outdoors because of our commitments to PE kept us working inside. We have missed an equal amount of good nights' sleep due to overwhelming stress we bring home with us at

want to be active, the level of commitment needed to maintain the PE collective pretty much has excluded having any time or energy for anything else at all."

The only way alternative institutions can hope to survive in the long term is if new



people continually join up to relieve the pressure on older members, and if people's needs to live and grow are respected, and if

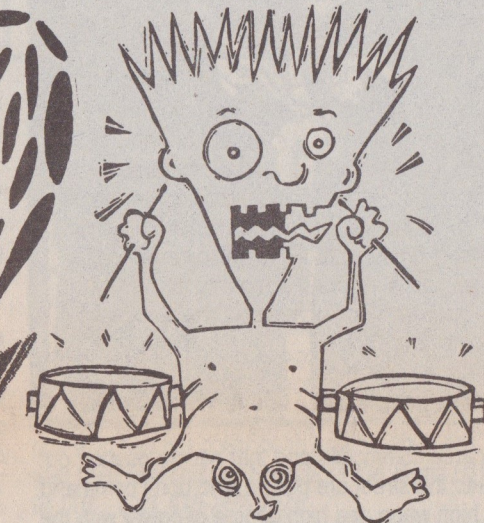
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NEW INFOSHOP OPENS IN AUSTIN

That's right a new Infoshop is opening in Austin near downtown, located at 1306 E. 6th St., Austin, TX 78701. Email: 1306antithesis@hotmail.com. Drop by if you're wondering how to plug into the activist community: Free skool, Copwatch, Food Not Bombs, Anti-Racist Action, etc. The Infoshop is looking for book donations, bands to play, volunteers, etc.



ACTIVE RESISTANCE 1999

If you liked Active Resistance 1998 (North American anarchist action and theory gathering) you'll love Active Resistance 1999. All those interested in helping to organize the upcoming gathering, contact ar99@tao.ca. Location and dates for the gathering to be announced soon.

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and the
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by Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans

The Prison Industrial Complex & the

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The only way alternative institutions can hope to survive in the long term is if new



people continually join up to relieve the pressure on older members, and if people's needs to live and grow are respected, and if tasks distributed are realistically. But sometimes, its just time for an established institution to die so new projects can fill the void.

The last issue of PE magazine is expected out in November and other operations are expected to wrap up by the end of the year.

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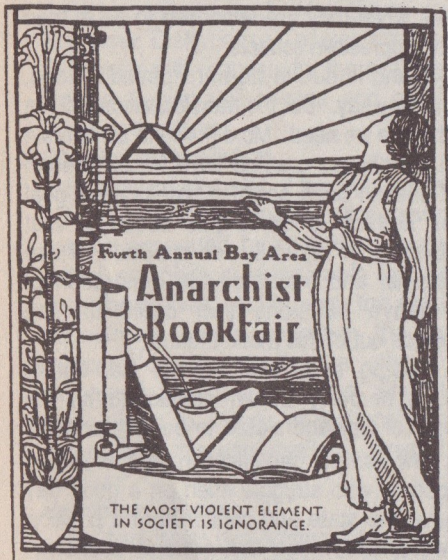
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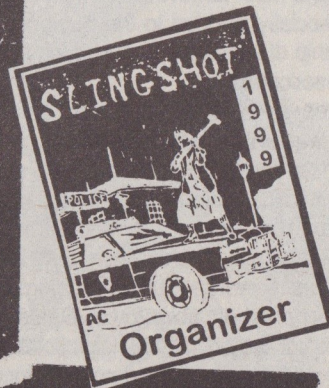
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Gentrification and Resistance in Oakland

War on Crime

Continued from page 1

the poorest are being literally made homeless; they are finding themselves being priced out of existence. What are people who can't make it supposed to do? Is it just a coincidence that California is building 20 new prisons to warehouse the poor? We are witnessing a market-driven mass relocation program for the inner-city and Oakland's new mayor elect looks poised to just make things worse.

The Uhuru Movement, a socialist Black-power group that operates in Oakland, published a paper this Fall attacking mayor-elect Brown's anti-crime rhetoric and his goal, as they see it, of making "Oakland 'safe' and pleasant for white people and investors by intensifying the policy of police containment and impoverishment of the African, Mexican, and other oppressed communities." They document Brown's history, lifted from his campaign literature, in which he boasts of creating the "Crime Resistance Task Force to promote neighborhood watch [read *snitch*] programs and signed legislation establishing the state's first career criminal prosecution programs", which Uhuru claims laid the basis for the Three Strikes You're Out laws.

Oakland's growing number of would-be residents is creating a high demand for limited housing and driving rents and home prices way up. This is causing poor long-term residents to be pushed to the economic brink and to be forced out of their homes. But even before this current crisis, throughout this century, Oakland's private housing has not been able to supply enough housing for the non-affluent classes. Severe housing shortages have been, since before Reaganomics, a permanent feature of the city's economy.

And even of people who manage to keep a roof over their head, "most low-income renters in Oakland pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing," according to Jeff Levine

pattern. Police hostility has met any group moving militantly towards increased power for the powerless. Oakland's police have served constantly to protect the interests of local property owners and have acted to limit the power of black people and labor.

We live in a class society. The working class is a class which must work for a wage in order to buy back survival. When, for whatever reason, the bottom line doesn't work out--when the difficulties encountered in earning money exceed the prospects for survival--that individual faces limited options, the most palatable of which often involves joining the ranks of the criminal element. Poverty and unemployment are necessary parts of the capitalist economic system. By the very logic of that system, a certain segment of the working class is positioned to become a criminal class.

The Home Front

The war on crime and the war on drugs are therefore domestic government wars on a certain class, a subset of the working class. In terms of that major component of the war on crime, the war on drugs, relatively little has been done to deal with the social aspects of drug use and addiction which disproportionately affects the lower classes seeking a chemical escape from their economic nightmare. It's been many years since the crack epidemic hit and there is still not a single drug treatment program in Oakland that is specifically funded or designed to deal with cocaine addiction.

In coming mayor Jerry Brown and anyone else who supports a military solution to a social problem, the social problem of economic

potential means to survival, but as a form of resistance. The study by UC Berkeley student, Darren Corn, focuses on a local gang nexus called the OTC (Oaktown Crips) and its relationship to the neighborhood it inhabits.

OTC Territory

The study found that the gang of young Laotian males who hung out and had an almost permanent presence on one part of a street maintained a relatively peaceful coexistence with the other people of the neighborhood. The only major complaints levied by the local residents concerned noise from hanging out. This situation was rare and would result in gang members being asked to keep it down as often as the police being called.

The gang hangs out on the street, the analysis has it, because the street is a place where something might happen. It is somewhere gang members can identify with, and it is a place where they can exert their power. The author of the study observes that the street is a familiar setting to the gang, to the "extent that it is even like a home." Given what we've already said about housing being a

gang members wear and the tags they leave in the neighborhood can be seen, in context, as a form of resistance to efforts to transform the area, it represents a unity of the dispossessed by signifying group identity and cohesion-- in this case in direct contrast to the possessed. A quick look at these people identifies them as a gang, especially in contrast to the majority of the people in the downtown who wear business attire. This creates strength through solidarity and is intimidating to others. In the context of the other things the OTC members do in the neighborhood, their intimidation powers are heightened.

Furthermore, their vandalism can be seen as a direct form of rebellion and power. Tags reclaim the neighborhood from the businesses by hanging the name of the OTC right on the buildings themselves, thereby symbolizing their territorial right to the area. The combined images of rebellion on the part of the OTC, along with their tolerance within the surrounding community, in conclusion, seriously questions the common idea that a gang is inherently bad.

Aspects of their existence that outsiders may view as being negative, can be seen as being beneficial to local residents. The gang can even be described, to some extent, as being protectors of the community. Actions that local property owners take to discourage people hanging out and engaging in vandalism, actions such as fortifying houses and fencing lots that would conventionally be viewed as "solutions" to petty crimes, can from another perspective can be seen as part of the larger problem of CBD intrusion into the neighborhood. Residents don't worry too much about the OTC. They worry more about the encroachment of the CBD and the prospective end of their neighborhood.

Neo-Liberal Raiders

Apparently, the latest push to gentrify Oakland is not unique to this area. It's part of what a Rutgers University professor and gentrification expert, Neil Smith, is calling the "class remake of the central urban landscape."

"Evicted from the public and private spaces of what is fast becoming a downtown bourgeois playground, minorities, the



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And even of people who manage to keep a roof over their head, "most low-income renters in Oakland pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing," according to Jeff Levine of the Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency. "We've got twenty or thirty thousand people with serious housing problems."

What do you do when you are no longer able or allowed to live in the place you once called home? Well, if you can't make it legitimately in the system, it only makes sense that you are going to try and make it "illegitimately" outside of the system, if you are to survive. Crime is a survival strategy for the disenfranchised.

Crime Pays

Theft and drug dealing are two alternative sources of income people may turn to when the legal economy just isn't providing. The police, in fact the entire criminal justice apparatus, exists to criminalize, capture, regulate, and warehouse this whole section of people that has fallen through the cracks--this reserve, unneeded or problematic army of the proletariat. To take them out of the picture, to remove them from the rest of the population, to strew and involve their entire lives with the criminal-industrial complex, is the punishment they get for being poor.

palatable of which often involves joining the ranks of the criminal element. Poverty and unemployment are necessary parts of the capitalist economic system. By the very logic of that system, a certain segment of the working class is positioned to become a criminal class.

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In coming mayor Jerry Brown and anyone else who supports a military solution to a social problem, the social problem of economic inequality, are supporters and perpetrators of the corporate state's created human misery that is the status quo. Crime fighters are not neutral. They provide no real solutions and are de facto defenders of the system that generates crime--capitalism.

As middle-class people move into Oakland, they establish new standards for what constitutes 'attractive' and safe. To feel comfortable in their new neighborhood, they expand the police's presence in order to push people out and transform the streets. Jerry Brown's zero tolerance for crime mentality unites yuppie psychology and war tactics. It is a program for upper class colonization of working class neighborhoods.

Clean streets and safe streets are slogans for movements ideologically centered around the bourgeois home. When yuppies and other higher-income residents move in, they are

author of the study observes that the street is a familiar setting to the gang, to the "extent that it is even like a home." Given what we've already said about housing being a



scarce commodity and that people pushed out onto the street are people who don't command a high wage or a high degree of power with the system, a desire to exert power and a place to call home on the street is a logical outcome. The street is the domain of the OTC, of the gang, but it is at the same time the domain of people who haven't anywhere else to go.

The study observes: "Located in a neighborhood where there is little ownership of property by the residents, this form of possession takes on significant meaning. The OTC's use of the street has effectively challenged the convention of who owns property and how it's acquired. They have established squatter's rights to this street and have made it their own, which is something that the people who live here have not been able to do."

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"Evicted from the public and private spaces of what is fast becoming a downtown bourgeois playground, minorities, the unemployed, and the poorest of the working class are destined for large-scale displacement," Smith says in his recent book *The New Urban Frontier*.

Brown's victory follows a trend in predominantly African cities across the country in which white mayors are once again replacing the black elected officials of the past several years. In Oakland, and elsewhere, white flight is being reversed.

As mayor, Brown plans to "fill every vacancy" on the Oakland police force, to get "every penny of state, federal and foundation anti-crime money available to Oakland...to make Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils truly part of the fabric of each neighborhood."

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problems."

What do you do when you are no longer able or allowed to live in the place you once called home? Well, if you can't make it legitimately in the system, it only makes sense that you are going to try and make it "illegitimately" outside of the system, if you are to survive. Crime is a survival strategy for the disenfranchised.

Crime Pays

Theft and drug dealing are two alternative sources of income people may turn to when the legal economy just isn't providing. The police, in fact the entire criminal justice apparatus, exists to criminalize, capture, regulate, and warehouse this whole section of people that has fallen through the cracks--this reserve, unneeded or problematic army of the proletariat. To take them out of the picture, to remove them from the rest of the population, to strew and involve their entire lives with the criminal-industrial complex, is the punishment they get for being poor.

The use of the police, courts, and prisons as the street sweepers of larger market-driven gentrification movements for economic cleansing are nothing new. In fact, in a larger sense you could say that is what the police, prisons, etc. are for. They are the ruling classes' army to break the back of the working class, and to keep it broken. To prevent it, even, from seeking medical attention. We need harm-reduction.

An economic harm-reduction perspective would view crime (the vast majority of which being economic crimes--theft, drug dealing, etc.) as symptoms of larger social illness. Poverty, an inequitable social order, and institutions of hate, degradation, and fear--notably, the capitalist economic structure and the state itself--are to blame.

The modern urban police system was created in reaction to the riots of the 1830s, 40s, and 50s. Oakland's police forces have consistently been used to protect the power position of both the business community and the city government itself. One function of police has been to weaken or eliminate organized labor's power of strike, and in Oakland, police have followed this national

status quo. Crime fighters are not neutral. They provide no real solutions and are de facto defenders of the system that generates crime--capitalism.

As middle-class people move into Oakland, they establish new standards for what constitutes 'attractive' and safe. To feel comfortable in their new neighborhood, they expand the police's presence in order to push people out and transform the streets. Jerry Brown's zero tolerance for crime mentality unites yuppie psychology and war tactics. It is a program for upper class colonization of working class neighborhoods.

Clean streets and safe streets are slogans for movements ideologically centered around the bourgeois home. When yuppies and other higher-income residents move in, they are

onto the street are people who don't command a high wage or a high degree of power with the system, a desire to exert power and a place to call home on the street is a logical outcome. The street is the domain of the OTC, of the gang, but it is at the same time the domain of people who haven't anywhere else to go.

The study observes: "Located in a neighborhood where there is little ownership of property by the residents, this form of possession takes on significant meaning. The OTC's use of the street has effectively challenged the convention of who owns property and how it's acquired. They have established squatter's rights to this street and have made it their own, which is something that the people who live here have not been able to do."

When, for whatever reason, the bottom line doesn't work out--when the difficulties encountered in earning money exceed the prospects for survival--that individual faces limited options, the most palatable of which often involves joining the ranks of the criminal element. Poverty and unemployment are necessary parts of the capitalist economic system. By the very logic of that system, a certain segment of the working class is positioned to become a criminal class.

frightened and expect and receive a kind of police protection that is not provided to the poor. They want to feel safe when they leave their home and must remove from the streets people not socially wedded to the illusions of the dictatorship of exchange under which they were able to succeed.

To develop a view of crime that differs from what 10 years of government sponsored war on drugs and war on crime hysteria and propaganda has inculcated into the population is a necessary task if we are to wind our way out of the matrix of incarceration that has enveloped this society. An anthropological study of a north of downtown Oakland neighborhood conducted in 1973 helps point us in the right direction by providing evidence that constructs a theory of crime as not only a

The study goes on to detail how that particular neighborhood is the site of a frontline gentrification battle, or in this case a redevelopment battle, to extend the northern edge of the Central Business District (CBD). Local speculative landowners allow houses to decline while renting them out and then eventually destroy them and level the lot to be sold off to developers.

The presence of the OTC on the street is an impediment to this scheme and police are regularly called in at the behest of the area's biggest landowner to chase people away. Gang members graffiti the area with their tag, engage in selective vandalism, and scatter when the police come a lookin' for them. The most common criminal activity in the area is car stereo burglaries. Uniformity of clothing the

The New Urban Frontier.

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Bobb wants to return to the days when police officers routinely stopped young people hanging out on street corners during school hours, and wants to prosecute parents of habitually truant students and merchants who allow young people to "loiter" around their stores when they are supposed to be in their shitty, oppressive schools.

Oakland is due to be transformed. Good, many may say. But the transformation will not be the one we need. More police to contain the social problems created by a social system that doesn't have social progress as a goal does nothing to solve this society's vast problems, it actually compounds those problems, and frustrates the generation of alternative solutions that could lift the populace out of this market matrix.

Exposing and rejecting the neo-liberal politics of Jerry Brown speaks to all the people of Oakland slated to be displaced by this new wave of gentrification, and as well to all people who struggle even on a good day against the state and capital from a position of weakness within the general economy. Justice was not made for all by the architects

Continued on page 15

Exposing US' bombing lies

by Gerald Smith

On August 20, 1998 the United States government bombed Sudan and Afghanistan in "retaliation" for the US Embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya earlier this year. The U.S. government said that its use of cruise missiles to bomb Sudan was justified because the government of that country was using that facility to create VX nerve gas. They also claimed that the location in Afghanistan that was bombed was a "terrorist training camp."

At the time the government made these claims, they knew they were false. But the truth – or the guilt of those bombed – doesn't matter to the US military establishment. The United States maintains international economic and military domination because it is a feared bully. A bully has to beat on someone every once and a while to maintain its status as bully.

By exposing the lies used to justify the Sudan and Afghanistan bombings, we can begin to build a mass movement against US and corporate world domination, which ultimately is necessary to free ourselves here at home.

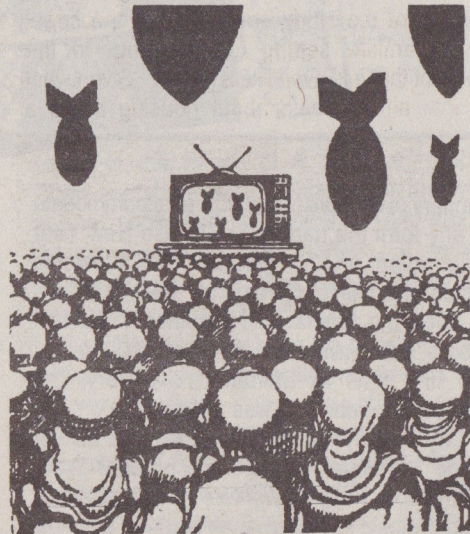
Osama Bin Laden's "Network" – Made In The U.S.A.

While we don't know who is responsible for the US Embassy bombings, we do know that the US government is responsible for helping to create the mujahedin (holy warriors) of Afghanistan. A few years ago this motley crew was hailed by the rulers of the US as so-called "freedom fighters". Today they are hypocritically denounced as "terrorist" by the most powerful terrorists in the world, the US government and its military and intelligence agencies.

Osama bin Laden's "Network", which the US charged was the author of the embassy bombings and which was the target of the bombing missions, for instance, was financed, trained, and armed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during Cold War against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980's. The

to request an independent investigation of the bombed site of the plant in Khartoum, to prove that the factory's only function was making medicine and veterinary supplies. The US blocked the request, and the Security Council shelved the discussion.

Ex-President Jimmy Carter, hardly an opponent of imperialist aggression, has called for a UN inquiry into the US raid on Sudan. He said, "If the Sudanese are guilty, they should be condemned both for lying and for contributing to terrorist activities, . . .



Otherwise, we should admit our error and make amends to those who suffered loss or injury."

The US government also claims that Osama bin Laden had heavily invested in the plant, making him a part owner. In fact, Salih Idris is the sole owner of the plant. US intelligence officials then tried to say he is a front man for bin Laden. But Idris, an adviser to Saudi Arabia's largest bank, has stated that he has never met bin Laden. (NYT, 9/21/98). Even the Wall Street Journal on August 24, 1998

ran a story headlined "Sudan Plant's Apparent Owner Has No Extremist Ties".

US officials further claimed that they bombed a facility that produced a key ingredient for a deadly nerve gas, called VX. The U.S. government insisted that the chemical, ethyl methylphosphonothionate or EMPTA, found in a soil sampling outside the plant could only mean that the plant was making the nerve gas agent VX. They also stated that there were no known commercial uses for EMPTA.

Real-world chemical experts provided a counterpoised explanation. "Several chemical-weapons experts outside the government say the single soil sample, if it was not carefully preserved and quickly tested, could have misidentified the key ingredient. They said EMPTA is chemically similar to several commercially available pesticides and herbicides, including the well-known commercially available weedkiller called Round-Up." (NYT, 8/29/98)

Raid is a popular pesticide, Round-Up a common herbicide. Raid! Round-Up! Looks like we better get rid of the Roach sprays and weedkillers before the local Swat Teams pay us a visit. As the days went on, every claim made by Crime Bill Clinton's crew collapsed under the scrutiny of the physical evidence. It seems that if they were talking, they were lying.

"Senior administration officials concede that they made inaccurate statements about the plant on Aug. 20 and did a poor job of publicly stating their case against the factory.

"We were not accurate", a senior administration official said. "That was a mistake" (NYT, 9/21/98)

Mistake indeed. This bombing was a calculated display of terror in the service of imperialist domination. Nor was it the first time that lies and deception were used to

cover-up their barbarity. From the Phoenix mass assassination program during the Vietnam War to the murderous campaigns carried out by the CIA's Nicaraguan Contras and Cuban gusanos, the US ruling class has always tried to use professional liars and charlatans to cover their tracks and conceal their crimes against humanity.

Remember the bombing of what the US military called a "biological weapons facility" in Baghdad—which turned out to be a baby formula factory—during the US-led onslaught against Iraq in 1991?

Military force cannot transform lies into truth anymore than it can transform manure into gold.

But the US capitalists cannot rule by force alone. It is imperative that false consciousness be constantly nurtured and reinforced. This is the primary function of the Headfixing Industry (corporate owned TV, radio and new agencies), which has eagerly distributed all of the lies told by US officials mentioned in this article.

U.S. Imperialism – The World's Biggest Terrorist

We must reject Crime Bill Clinton's "War Against International Terrorism" because, not least of all, this "war" is in part a diversion to undercut the development of the class struggle. In fact, the main "front" of this "war" is right here in the US. It takes the form of attacks on civil liberties (been to an airport lately?) and the rights of immigrants. The US rulers' "anti-terrorist" hysteria is a particular threat Arab-Americans and Muslims in general, who have been the victims of arson attacks, death threats and FBI harassment especially since the war with Iraq.

What ever happens next in Afghanistan or anywhere else, this "war" at home will last for years to come. It is a "war" we can't afford to lose.

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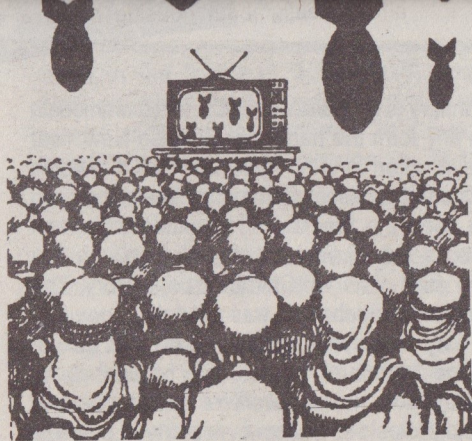
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By perpetrating a form of state terror qualitatively more murderous than any of its third world targets can generate, the US imperialists are inciting attacks against American citizens abroad. In one of the many demonstrations at which the spirit of protest against the bombing erupted in Sudan, Pakistan, and the Near East, a representative of Hamas (a Palestine based group) said: "America will reap the harvest of its aggression." Crime Bill Clinton's Cronies had the nerve to warn against an increase in indiscriminate terrorism against Americans. No shit Sherlock! The world is a lot less safe because of the US bombings. Vacation anyone?

U.S. Government Caught Lying...Again

On August 21, 1998 Crime Bill Clinton's cronies claimed that they had "irrefutable evidence" that a "secret chemical weapons plant" that produced nerve gas had been bombed in Sudan. The government of Sudan



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Bikes on the move!

by the 20 Inch Crank of the Bicycle Revolution

As the Bay becomes more like LA and our regional transportation decision-making body, the "MTC" (More Trucks and Cars Commission/Metropolitan Transportation Commission) continues to be developer-controlled, creating sprawling suburbs and locking in automobile dependency, a strong and creative bike and pedestrian movement is blossoming and continues to become more effective. Bay Area bicycle and pedestrian direct actions have been on a steady increase. Real change is mighty slow in coming, but we are having some successes. Action and organization has happened all around the Bay and on all kinds of fronts.

BayPeds is a new group which champions the rights of pedestrians and the Bicycle Civil Liberties Union is another new group which seeks equitable treatment for non-motorized travelers. Noting that bikes and peds make up at least 11% of all trips in the Bay Area, yet

which would have minimized inconvenience to commuters.

Expect more protests and lawsuits if there is no change in the Bay Bridge design, particularly as to the bike/ped path which the authorities finally voted to build as part of the Bay Bridge retrofit (which was a major victory in itself). Caltrans wants to place the bicycle path directly adjacent to harsh



Council, 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94704, FAX: (510) 644-8801 and send a copy to the Transportation Commission, 2118 Milvia St, Suite 300, Berkeley, CA 94704, FAX: (510) 883-6565. The Berkeley Transportation Commission is to consider the Plan as *Slingshot* goes to press and the plan may go to the City Council as early as December 15. For more information, contact the Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition: 510 549-RIDE, bfbc@lmi.net.

Critical Mass bike rides continue to occur throughout the Bay Area, giving cyclists one day a month to ride safe and proud, and demonstrating what the streets would look like if everyone rode their bikes. Recent police abuses have hurt the ride in Santa Cruz, although Berkeley (2nd Friday of the Month, 5:30 Berkeley BART) is still hanging in strong and San Francisco (last working Friday, 5:30 Justin Herman Plaza) is making a heady recovery after police crackdowns last year. Other rides (Silicon Valley, Santa Rosa, Marin)

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Who should we believe? Let's examine the facts. The US government claimed that the plant was a part of a highly secretive, tightly secured military-industrial complex in Sudan, and that the plant produced no commercial products.

In fact, the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant located in Khartoum, Sudan was the pride of that country. Regular tours of international dignitaries were conducted, showcasing this symbol of national progress. The plant produced such badly needed medicines as antibiotics, anti-malarial and anti-diarrheal drugs, intravenous fluids, and some anti-worm veterinary materials. The plant had a contract with the UN to supply these medicines to other countries.

At a recent forum, Dick Becker, a representative of the International Action Center who visited Sudan right after the bombing, said that the plant was such a "secret" that there were signs in the streets directing people to its location!

The Sudanese government came to the UN

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BayPeds is a new group which champions the rights of pedestrians and the Bicycle Civil Liberties Union is another new group which seeks equitable treatment for non-motorized travelers. Noting that bikes and peds make up at least 11% of all trips in the Bay Area, yet suffer 25% of the traffic fatalities, these two groups came together to protest the adoption of the 20-year, 88-billion dollar Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which committed only 1/200th of the funding to bikes and peds. The protest involved outfitting bicycles to be "as big as cars" (with PVC pipes suspended on rope in a rectangle around each bike) circling the building where the commissioners were making their horrible decisions.

The solidarity link between bicyclists and mass transit was emphasized by a direct action ride across the Bay Bridge on September 10th. A large group of bikes showed just how easy it would be to permit bikes to ride across the bridge by Just Doing It, pedaling all the way from Oakland to the transbay terminal in San Francisco during rush hour traffic. Five of the cyclists supported a 62-foot sculpture of a train on a suspension bridge to protest the lack of rail capacity in the new Bay Bridge design. The bikes often went faster than the stalled traffic, although police attempted to sabotage the message by deciding to arrest the cyclists on the off ramp from the bridge, rather than on city streets

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freeway traffic, exposing cyclists to unnecessary fumes and danger, rather than sunken below or above the traffic lanes. (This will also permit Caltrans to easily convert the bike path to another traffic lane causing even more car traffic later.)

Meanwhile, in the world of policy change, the Berkeley Bike Plan is finally, after SEVEN YEARS, coming up for adoption. It's critical that we show public support to help push this through. A web site has been constructed to allow sending a letter with a click of a button: <http://users.lmi.net/~jmeggs/bikeplanyes.htm> You can send a letter to Mayor Dean and City

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A new group, "GRIP" -- "Great Routes Inspire Pedalers" -- is a direct action/protest group in San Francisco which has held numerous protests in recent months, storming City Hall with bicycles (inside the lobby!) while a giant "Willie-Head", an effigy of the mayor, remained calm and smiling even as the real mayor ran terrified for his limousine.

While Free Radio Berkeley has sadly been off the air, the alternative media is still strong on the internet and through video productions such as July 25th: The Secret is Out! about the orchestrated and corrupt police crackdown on the SF Critical Mass (conveniently masking major transportation scandals at the time).

To get involved in some of the essential activism around these issues, contact BayPeds at 510 540-6509; Bike the Bridge! Coalition at 510 273-9288; Bicycle Civil Liberties Union at <http://xinet.com/bike/bclu/>; and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition at 510 843-3878

Giuliani's Police State

Continued from page 3

Street was demolished by the city after the summary eviction of the immigrant tenants. They were not even allowed back in to rescue pets or collect personal belongings before a City-contracted wrecking crane destroyed their home before their unbelieving eyes. The tenants deny City claims that their building was in danger of imminent collapse. The previous February, a squatter building on East Third Street was similarly destroyed with no notice to the evicted inhabitants.

Police brutality survivors, and their next-of-kin, charge Giuliani with running a city where cops can maim and kill with impunity. Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant who was tortured and ritually sodomized while in police custody last summer, is only the most prominent of a series of vicious police attacks on blacks across the city. The Louima case is being treated as outrageous only because of the twisted psycho-sexual angle. If the cops had merely beat Abner to death, or gunned him down when they first apprehended him, he wouldn't be a household name in New York—he would have been a brief blurb on the news, if that. Norman Siegel of the New York Civil Liberties Union has stepped down from the special commission Giuliani was forced to form following the Louima incident, charging it with being a toothless propaganda charade.

Giuliani, meanwhile, dismisses as empty propaganda the recent reports by both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch charging the NYPD with systematic human rights abuses. The paramilitary NYPD "anti-drug" operations terrorize whole communities, especially in Brooklyn's African American neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and East New York.

The last year has seen a wave of no-knock wrong-address raids on black and Latino homes across the city, in which the apartments of unoffending citizens have been ransacked and children menaced at gunpoint. The mayor

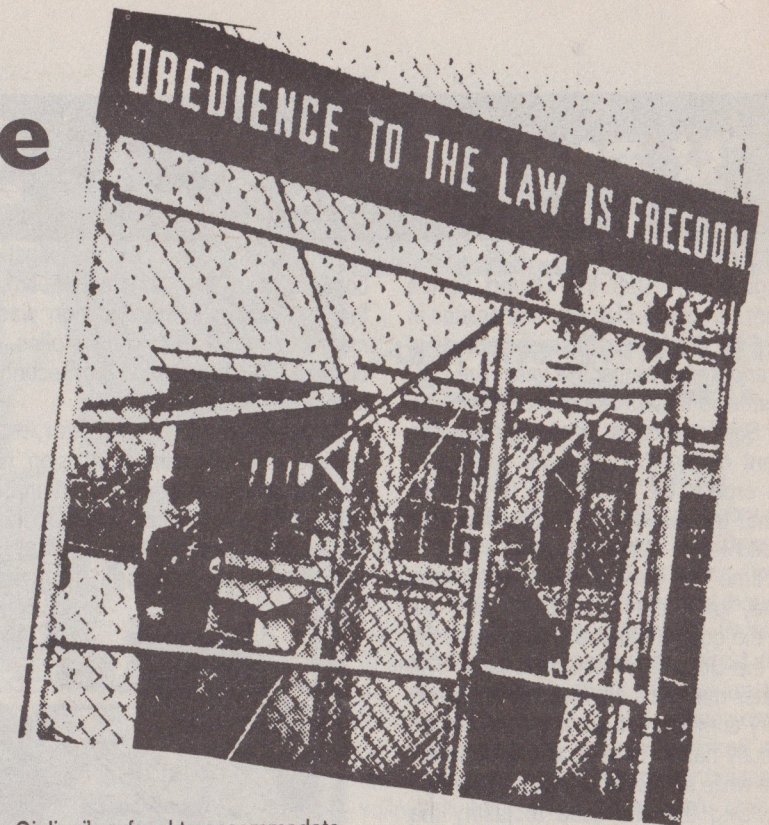
understandable percentage," he told the press in early March. But records were not kept for warrantless raids—such as that which occurred just two weeks later at another Bronx apartment. Police battered down a door and charged in with guns drawn—to confront a grandmother, her daughter and six-year-old grandson watching TV. "I was scared they were going to shoot us," said the youngster, Jaquan Fulton. Police said they misunderstood an informant's directions to the apartment.

Police video cameras have been installed in Washington Square Park for anti-drug surveillance. Smoking a joint outdoors has become nearly impossible in Giuliani's New York. Those busted for toking on the street are no longer given desk-appearance tickets, but are put "through the system," waiting up to 72 hours in "The Tombs" of 100 Center Street to see a judge. The legal limit that arrestees can be held in The Tombs was recently expanded from 48 hours due to the system being overloaded with petty "quality-of-life" arrests.

Cultural space in Giuliani's New York is shrinking like a sphincter. Sex retailers and performers are protesting Giuliani's restrictive zoning regulations, which purges them from most of the city. In addition to holding public protests, sex workers and business owners are challenging the regulations before the US Supreme Court on First Amendment grounds.

Salsa musicians on Amsterdam Avenue are up in arms over Giuliani's enforcement of the outdated "cabaret laws," which ban bands with horn sections from business unless they have a "cabaret license."

The East Village rock'n'roll clubs CBGBs, Continental Divide and Coney Island High were recently the target of NYPD raids. The raids were officially to crack down on drug use by patrons, but CBGBs, the historic birthplace of punk rock and an established neighborhood



January over Giuliani's refusal to accommodate in any form the traditional Chinese New Year celebration on the grounds that fireworks disturb the peace. Community leaders offered to keep the firecrackers confined to certain blocks, but Giuliani wouldn't give an inch. For the first time in Chinatown's history, the traditional celebration was not held.

City employees are facing lay-offs as no-wage "workfare" workers are brought in for many jobs. Hospital workers have repeatedly held protests in Harlem over plans to privatize or close the only hospital in a community where the life expectancy is lower than that of Bangladesh. Giuliani wants to spend \$600 million to move Yankee Stadium from The Bronx to Upper Manhattan (a move protested by Bronx leaders as racist) at the same time that he threatens to shut down Harlem Hospital in the name of austerity!

Workfare workers, in turn, protest that the city has refused to recognize their union, on the grounds that they are not really workers.

On June 30, thousands of construction

police who tried to restrain them from taking the streets.

In April 1995, thousands of students from the City University of New York (CUNY) protested at City Hall against budget cuts. They were joined by many kids from the city's public high schools, which are overcrowded and in disrepair, with classes even being held in bathrooms. Giuliani, as he slashed the education budget, complained that some of the protester's signs misspelled his name.

The student struggle continues. This June, after surveillance cameras were discovered hidden in smoke detectors in student meeting rooms at City College of New York (CCNY, a part of the CUNY system), officials said they had been installed to combat burglary. But an affidavit by the college security director in a suit filed by students admitted that they were actually aimed at gathering intelligence on planned student protests against budget cuts.

Anger against Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is fast

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The last year has seen a wave of no-knock wrong-address raids on black and Latino homes across the city, in which the apartments of unoffending citizens have been ransacked and children menaced at gunpoint. The mayor has refused to apologize for these violations. Giuliani defended the NYPD's record of 10 bogus busts out of 45,000 drug warrants last year. "I think 10 out of 45,000 is a very

recently expanded from 10 to 15, and the system being overloaded with petty "quality-of-life" arrests.

Cultural space in Giuliani's New York is shrinking like a sphincter. Sex retailers and performers are protesting Giuliani's restrictive zoning regulations, which purges them from most of the city. In addition to holding public protests, sex workers and business owners are challenging the regulations before the US Supreme Court on First Amendment grounds.

Salsa musicians on Amsterdam Avenue are up in arms over Giuliani's enforcement of the outdated "cabaret laws," which ban bands with horn sections from business unless they have a "cabaret license."

The East Village rock'n'roll clubs CBGBs, Continental Divide and Coney Island High were recently the target of NYPD raids. The raids were officially to crack down on drug use by patrons, but CBGBs, the historic birthplace of punk rock and an established neighborhood institution, was actually closed by police in the raid when management couldn't find a copy of their liquor license.

The Chinatown community was angered in

in any form the traditional Chinese New Year celebration on the grounds that fireworks disturb the peace. Community leaders offered to keep the firecrackers confined to certain blocks, but Giuliani wouldn't give an inch. For the first time in Chinatown's history, the traditional celebration was not held.

City employees are facing lay-offs as no-wage "workfare" workers are brought in for many jobs. Hospital workers have repeatedly held protests in Harlem over plans to privatize or close the only hospital in a community where the life expectancy is lower than that of Bangladesh. Giuliani wants to spend \$600 million to move Yankee Stadium from The Bronx to Upper Manhattan (a move protested by Bronx leaders as racist) at the same time that he threatens to shut down Harlem Hospital in the name of austerity!

Workfare workers, in turn, protest that the city has refused to recognize their union, on the grounds that they are not really workers.

On June 30, thousands of construction workers, angered over the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's awarding a construction contract to a non-union company, held a militant march in Midtown, battling the

the streets.

In April 1995, thousands of students from the City University of New York (CUNY) protested at City Hall against budget cuts. They were joined by many kids from the city's public high schools, which are overcrowded and in disrepair, with classes even being held in bathrooms. Giuliani, as he slashed the education budget, complained that some of the protester's signs misspelled his name.

The student struggle continues. This June, after surveillance cameras were discovered hidden in smoke detectors in student meeting rooms at City College of New York (CCNY, a part of the CUNY system), officials said they had been installed to combat burglary. But an affidavit by the college security director in a suit filed by students admitted that they were actually aimed at gathering intelligence on planned student protests against budget cuts.

Anger against Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is fast growing in New York City. Whether the various constituencies he is making life hell for will be able to unite in an effective multi-issue coalition remains to be seen.

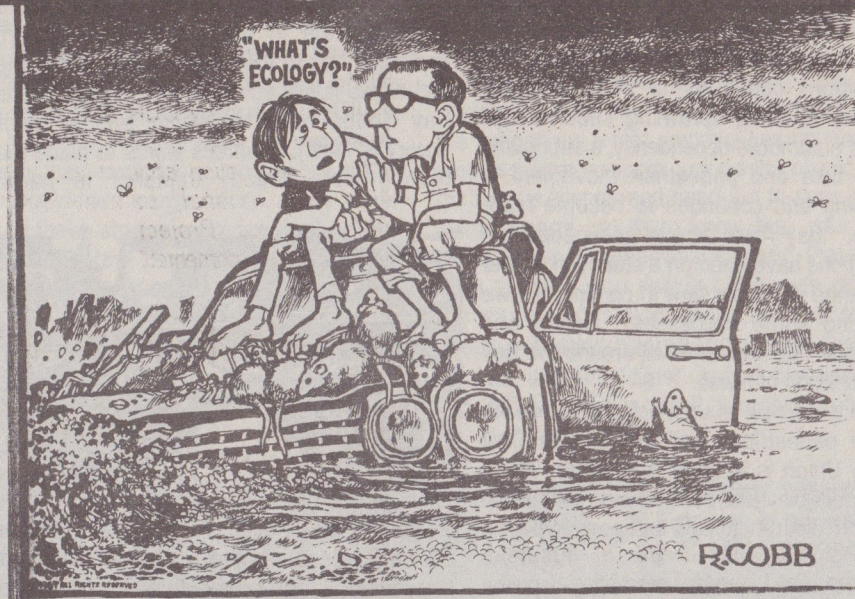
Global Warming—we must act now!

Continued from page 9

Should responsibility index be based on past, present or future emissions?

These issues of equity have a real basis—per capita, developed countries emit 10s of times more greenhouse gases than developing countries. For every person in the US, 20 tons of CO₂ are released each year. So although the US makes up less than 5% of the world's population, it produces 25% of the world's greenhouse gases—the same amount as 100 developing countries, making up 80% of the world's population, combined. Rich countries have obviously benefited from the industrialization that has produced so much greenhouse gas.

Government officials from countries that have been under-developed argue that it would be unfair for emissions regulations to prevent their countries from industrializing. On the other hand, if the under-developed countries were to reach industrial levels of emissions, the scope of the problem would be



exactly what will happen, so let's do nothing."

These arguments are totally specious. There is no excuse for inaction. Something (even if we don't know exactly what) is going to happen—

that would be pretty painless, yet would make a huge difference. Three-fourths of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuel combustion. Most power plants burn

maintained locally. According to one estimate, it would cost only \$60 billion to provide photo voltaic power to 1 billion people—this is less than 0.5% of current military expenditure.

Companies will milk fossil fuels for as long as they are profitable (and they've invested a lot in infrastructure) then just transition to sustainable power as soon as they'll make more that way. Unless local communities show leadership, most power solutions will probably be centralized and run on a for-profit basis. For example, ENRON already has plans to build a 100 megawatt solar power station in the Nevada desert.

We can also fight for regulatory structures and taxes that encourage energy conservation and mass transit, and end counter-productive policies like subsidizing clear-cuts and private automobile transportation. We should make every effort to reduce unnecessary lighting, re-use materials and buy less stuff, and make better use of solar light and heat in buildings. Currently, most power companies' pricing structure encourage more energy use, just as development patterns and transportation

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Government officials from countries that have been under-developed argue that it would be unfair for emissions regulations to prevent their countries from industrializing. On the other hand, if the under-developed countries were to reach industrial levels of emissions, the scope of the problem would be incomprehensible. Despite the validity of these questions, they are being used to weaken and stall regulations that might curtail corporate profits. Clearly, the industrialized countries need to subsidize under-developed countries, since they've been robbing them for years.

Besides these questions, all kinds of other distracting arguments have been put forward advocating inaction. For example, "No matter what policies we adopt, we're already in for it." "People and the economy will adapt to maximize profit and minimize losses." "Economically-vulnerable sectors are not that significant to the economy (i.e. agriculture and forestry)." "Only low-lying and island areas will really be affected by the ocean level rising 3 feet." "Even if we change policies today, we won't see the effects for a long time, and the money we spend today will be worth less per person in the future." "Scientists aren't sure

exactly what will happen, so let's do nothing."

These arguments are totally specious. There is no excuse for inaction. Something (even if we don't know exactly what) is going to happen—in fact it is already happening. The damage will be catastrophic and irreversible. It's going to take a long time to fix, so we better start now. All the international agreements are based upon future reductions to some percentage of 1990 levels. But the amount emitted in 1990 was not sustainable—it would continue to enhance the greenhouse effect. We have to reduce to pre industrial revolution levels, plus compensate for the population growth since then. On the bright side, we already have access to technology that does not emit these gases.

So what should be done?

We must work on every level on which we can have influence to immediately reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases: household, workplace, local government, state and federal regulations, etc.

There are many changes we could make now

that would be pretty painless, yet would make a huge difference. Three-fourths of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuel combustion. Most power plants burn coal or gas, and every automobile produces about 2 tons of CO₂ per year. For starters, we can demand that gas and utility companies develop and implement technologies that increase the efficiency of fuel burning, and maintain their pipelines and wells to minimize waste.

But instead of mining and burning coal, gasoline, oil, and natural gas, we should be generating power from renewable, non-polluting sources. There are many options: photo voltaic electricity; solar heat, hot water and lighting; wind turbines; bio-mass fuel (burning plant material, which causes no net change in carbon); small-scale hydro-electricity; and geothermal heat and power.

Even without calculating the real, environmental costs of power, many of these are already cheaper than fossil fuels, use local labor and materials, can be built and

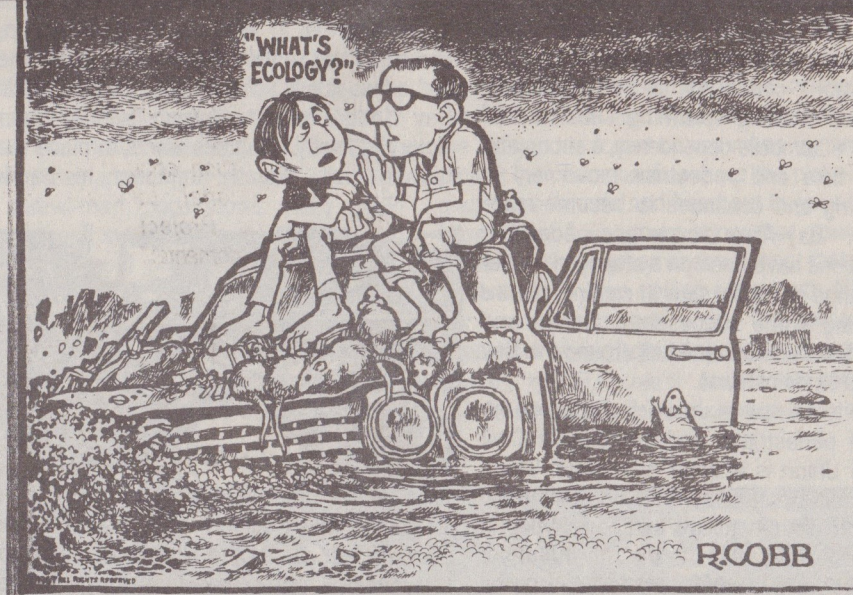
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We can also fight for regulatory structures and taxes that encourage energy conservation and mass transit, and end counter-productive policies like subsidizing clear-cuts and private automobile transportation. We should make every effort to reduce unnecessary lighting, re-use materials and buy less stuff, and make better use of solar light and heat in buildings. Currently, most power companies' pricing structure encourage more energy use, just as development patterns and transportation allocation encourage more car use.

We can force governments to require the use of only renewable energies. We can require that money be allocated for public transportation. Not only will this slow the rate of global warming, it will improve our lives now. Air quality would improve, there would be less acid rain and erosion, and biodiversity would be protected. One study in Norway indicated that 70% of the cost of a carbon tax of 2.75% of the GNP would be recouped through direct, non-climatic benefits.

Clearly the time to act is now. Although intensifying the pressure on national governments is crucial, we should not expect that these corporate-run government bodies will suddenly begin acting in our interests. While individualistic lifestyle changes are not the answer, collective changes in our resource use can be.



Workers need a living wage

A movement to significantly raise the minimum wage to a "living wage" is catching on across the country, raising the standard of living for hundreds of thousands of workers. At least 18 cities, including Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Boston, have already enacted living wage legislation, and campaigns in over a dozen more are being waged by coalitions of organized labor and community groups.

Living wage laws usually state that the wage earned must be enough to sustain a family of 3-4 above the federal poverty line (\$16,400 for a family of four.) Currently, workers who earn the current federal minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour make an average of only \$10,700 a year. Most ordinances apply to all employers who contract with or receive substantial tax incentives or subsidies from the city government. The rates vary from city to city.

San Jose's tentatively passed living wage ordinance is the nation's highest minimum passed so far at \$12.50 an hour with benefits, and \$15 without. Oakland by contrast passed a similar ordinance in April that guarantees city contract workers \$8 an hour with benefits and \$9.25 without. L.A. and Pasadena are requiring \$7.25 w/benefits, \$8.50 w/out. Other cities weigh in at: Boston \$8.2; Portland \$7; Baltimore \$7.10; Milwaukee \$6.05; Jersey City, NJ \$7.50; Des Moines \$9; and Santa Clara County, CA at \$10 w/health benefits. Some ordinances concern only wages, others just benefits, while still others set minimum standards for both. Most include a package of both.

In San Francisco, a living wage resolution is pending before the Board of Supervisors, having been sent to the Finance Committee for approval by a newly created living wage task force. The Association of Bay Area Governments has said that a Bay Area single parent with one child must earn \$14.50 an hour to stay above the poverty line. Living wage

advocates in San Francisco say a law there would need to set wages near \$10 an hour, almost twice the current minimum wage. If the task forces derails the movement, advocates say they will put an initiative on the ballot. The Board is expected to vote on a study proposal at its November 23 meeting.

The ordinances normally apply only to businesses which contract for or receive in

around the country, needless to say business interests haven't been so supportive. Steve Tedesco, president of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, said that San Jose's living wage ordinance would cause a domino effect in the city, with unions demanding more money from companies that otherwise would not be affected by it.

"There is going to be a ripple effect on

wage earned by some 12 million Americans to \$6.15 on Jan. 1, 2000. The first 50-cent increase would have taken effect next New Years.

Weekly wages for average American workers are about 14% below 1973 levels, adjusting for inflation. In the last few decades the United States has been redistributing wealth away from workers. The average CEO made 326 times the pay of factory workers last year, up from 1980, when CEOs made 42 times as much. The net worth of the bottom 40 percent of households in 1995 was 80 percent less than in 1983.

Labor, in a market system, is just another commodity; the wage a woman or man commands has nothing to do with how much she or he needs to support a family or to feel part of the broader society. The living wage movement is simply a way to raise the minimum wage through local action.

"It smacks of socialism to me," said City Councilman Robbie who recently opposed Greensboro, North Carolina's living wage drive.

There are other strategies to consider. Berkeley's recent measure to shorten the work week with no loss in pay would in effect raise the minimum wage, with the added bonus of spreading work around to more people, thereby reducing competition for jobs and unemployment. Another strategy would be state-wide and national calls for a guaranteed job at a living wage for all people who want one. Or how about sweeping aside the wage system all together in favor of an economy based on voluntary association.

To get involved in the living wage movement locally, contact: Temp Workers Union, 1095 Market Street, Suite 616, San Francisco, CA 94103. For local contacts of ongoing campaigns elsewhere, contact ACORN at 202-547-2500.

N. Waters



assistance a minimum \$25-100,000 from the city and have more than say 25 employees. Oakland's ordinance, while not the highest in pay, is one of the most comprehensive in other ways. Employees of qualifying firms, agencies and non-profit organizations are ensured of at least 12 days of compensated days off per year for sick, personal, or vacation leave and 10 days of uncompensated time off per year for other reasons. And in Boston, covered employers must use community-based hiring halls and cannot displace employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

While efforts to create a living wage have received substantial support from unions

labor contracts," he said.

None of the living wage ordinances applies explicitly to workfare workers. This has presented problems in Baltimore, where the city is undermining the intent of the ordinance by hiring workfare workers instead of contract employees. It is also important for ordinances to consider annual rises in the cost of living without the necessity of obtaining legislative revisions.

This September, the U.S. Senate rejected a \$1 election-year increase in the federal hourly minimum wage pushed by Sen. Edward Kennedy. By a 55-44 vote, senators killed the proposal, which would have raised the minimum

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Unocal Charter

Continued from page 3

corporations can be dissolved and their assets sold to others who will obey the law and protect the public interest.

On September 10, activists presented a 127-page petition in favor of revoking the corporate charter of Unocal (Union Oil of California). "After extensive reflection, discussion and research, those of us acting here as part of We the People ask the Attorney General and the Governor to use this tool that lies ignored in their desk drawers, a tool to keep giant corporations wholly subordinate to the sovereign people by whose permission and toleration they exist... If the information against Unocal... is not enough to galvanize them into action, then what in the world would be enough?"

Their petition alleges 10 counts of crimes against humanity and the environment. They include:

Environmental Devastation, "contaminating land, air and water from San Francisco to Los Angeles, helping destroy rainforests in southeast Asia, and contributing to climate change while funding a researcher to throw doubt on climate-change science."

Unfair and Unethical Treatment of

that left workers sick, disabled, and dead, Unocal has now declared that "it no longer considers itself as a US company," abandoning long-time employees for cheaper labor overseas.

Aiding Oppression of Women and Homosexuals; Enslavement and Forced Labor; Forced Relocation of Burmese Villages and Villagers; Killings, Torture, and Rape; Complicity in Cultural Genocide of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples... In the name of profit, Unocal has colluded with some of the most oppressive regimes in the modern world, for example Burma and Afghanistan.

Usurpation of Political Power. Unocal has legitimized brutal human rights abusers in Afghanistan and Burma, negotiating business deals that promise them major military support. This has undermined government sanctions policies, pushing instead for policies of "constructive engagement" that allow its business deals to thrive. "California authorized Unocal to be a business corporation, not to be an international policy entity working to thwart US foreign policy and to subvert the democratic process."

Deception of the Courts, Shareholders and the Public. That's right, lies, lies, lies.

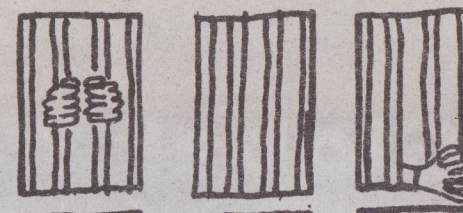
but it marks a major action by a growing movement to return corporations to the democratic control of the people by revoking the charters of corporations that violate our human and civil rights. Regulatory agencies and the occasional fine do nothing to stop widespread corporate abuses of power. Since corporations operate by OUR authority, it's time to tell them to stop!

For more information about this project, contact the National Lawyers Guild International Law Project for Human, Economic, and Environmental Defense (HEED) 213-736-1094.

Speak-Out!

Stop Oakland Police Abuse

A speak-out about police brutality and misconduct in Oakland was held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on November 5. The speak-out was organized by the local activist group PUEBLO (People United for a Better Oakland.) Several dozen Oakland residents from many ethnic backgrounds took the microphone one after



Crime

Continued from page 12

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Sadly, safe streets and gentrification are synonymous at this point and time in Oakland under the current market system. Crime and survival are likewise synonymous under the same system. Ideally, a radical political movement would spring to life to offer a third way out, but until then, anyone who believes in true social justice must choose the criminal over the yuppie and the criminal over the cop. Jerry Brown, Gray Davis, Dan Lungren, and the entire chorus of political establishmentarians who support the war on crime, the expansion of the state's criminal prosecution apparatus, or any part of this empire's prison-industrial complex, support



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Naturally, Lungren dismissed the petition,

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Social power to the criminals, the gangs, the prisoners--the bottom class.

San Francisco Bay Guardian, October 7, 1998. *The Cleansing of San Francisco*, p. 17

Hayes, Edward. *Power Structure and Urban Policy: Who Rules in Oakland*. McGraw Hill, 1972, p. 37-55

Guardian. *The East Bay Effect*, by A. Clay Thompson, p. 39

Freedom First! ...Then Peace will Last, Vol. 1, No.1, Fall 1998. p. 1

East Bay Express, October 9, 1998. *The Other Epidemic: Fatal Encounters with Crack*, by Dashka Slater, p. 14

Mob Rule, #2, San Jose, CA. *The Pigs and Downtown*, p. 3-8

Living on the Edge: A Study of Conflicts and Resistance in an Oakland Neighborhood. Peace and Conflict Studies Department honor's theses

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Mayor-elect Jerry Brown fulfilled an election promise and attended, although his address to the crowd left something to be desired. Ron Hampton, Director of the National Black Officers' Association also spoke at the end. There were approximately 200 people present.

For more information about PUEBLO, call (510) 452-2010.

N.W.

N.W.

"Shut Corcoran Down!"

A caravan of about 200 people from the Bay Area drove out to protest conditions at two of California's state prisons in the central Valley on October 17. The caravan met up first in front of the women's prison in Chowchilla where a roadside rally was held to draw attention to the substandard condition women face inside the facility. Much of the Caravan then continued on to the next demonstration a few hours later all the way down to the mid-state high security men's facility in Corcoran. Corcoran has received extensive media attention in recent years for its notorious brutality. Guards have been exposed for engaging in numerous atrocities including, but

not limited to, numerous murders of prisoners, setting up fights between prisoners as sport, and placing dissident prisoners in the same cell as a known prison rapist as punishment.

The Corcoran demo was also attended by about 200 activists who drove up from the Los Angeles region. People chanted "shut Corcoran down" and listened to speakers some of whom have relatives inside, including the father of Preston Tate who was murdered by Corcoran guards. The prison's warden and other prison officials were present to observe the demonstration. Fresno Food Not Bombs served lunch.

Action Calendar

— NOVEMBER —

Thursday • Nov. 26 • 5:30-10pm
Give Thanks Feast with East Bay Food Not Bombs. Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo @ Gilman, Berkeley. Call Terri at 510-601-5673.

— DECEMBER —

Tuesday • December 1 • 5-6pm
World AIDS Day event: Candlelight vigil, demanding Alameda county funding for needle exchange. Alameda County Building, 1221 Oak St., Oakland (near Lake Merritt BART). 510-568-1680.

Thursday • Dec. 3 • 7-8:30pm
Bay Area Video Activist Network (VAN) meeting and screening. 7pm meeting, 8:30 showing. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia @ 21st, SF. 415-789-8484.

Wednesday • December 9
Principles and practices of peace-building in the workplace. \$15. Saybrook Graduate School, 450 Pacific Ave @ Montgomery, SF. 415-433-9200.

Saturday • December 12
Rally for Julia Butterfly's 1-year tree-sit. Call North Coast EF! 707-825-6598 or Luna hotline at 415-337-4302.

Saturday • December 12
Demonstration to Free Mumia Abu Jamal. Call 415-821-0459 for details.

Sunday • Dec. 13 • 2-11pm
Bike Utopia Ball, music, presentations, food, and fun. Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo @ Gilman, Berkeley.

Tuesday • Dec. 15 • 7:30pm
Eric Drooker (radical artist), Musical Slide Lecture. La Pena, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley.

Saturday • December 19
Free Leonard Peltier Day Protest March. 785-842-5774.

Tuesday • Dec. 22 • 11:30-2:30
1st anniversary of the Acteal massacre. 11:30 assemble in front of Federal Building (near Civic Center BART), 12:00 march, 12:30-2:30 demonstration in front of Mexican consulate. 415-550-1101.

— JANUARY —

Friday • January 8 • 5:30pm
Berkeley Critical Mass, 2nd Friday every month. Meet @ Berkeley BART.

Sunday • January 10 • 4pm
Slingshot New Volunteer Meeting. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck, Berkeley (near Ashby BART)

Friday • January 15 • 6:30pm
Clitoral Mass women's bike ride, 3rd Friday every month. Meet @ the Women's Building, San Francisco.

Friday • January 29 • 5:30pm
San Francisco Critical Mass, last working Friday each month. Meet @ Embarcadero BART.

— FEBRUARY —

Tuesday • February 16
Slingshot Article Deadline

— MARCH —

Saturday • March 27
4th Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair, SF County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park.

— APRIL —

Friday-Sunday • April 2-4
1999 Solidarity Festival, West Coast Food Not Bombs Gathering. Ventura, CA. Write FNB, PO Box 1563, Ventura, CA 93002.

Long Haul Infoshop & Radical Library Open Hours

Monday (♀ only)	6-9 Thursday	3-9 3124 Shattuck Ave
Tuesday	6-9 Sunday	3-9 Berkeley
Wednesday	6-9 Cafe Night Sunday	7:30 510-540-0751

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